DARK CRISIS

WORLDS WITHOUT A JUSTICE LEAGUE

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TINI HOWARD CHRIS BURNHAM
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AND MANY MORE!

DC

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DARK CRISIS: WORLDS WITHOUT A JUSTICE LEAGUE
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Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League – Superman #1
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THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE
HAS FALLEN.

IN AN EPIC
BATTLE AGAINST THE
MAD PARIAH'S DARK ARMY,
EARTH'S DEFENDERS SACRIFICED
THEMSELVES TO SAVE THE
MULTIVERSE.

NOW SUPERMAN, BATMAN,
WONDER WOMAN, AQUAMAN,
MARTIAN MANHUNTER, JOHN STEWART,
HAWKGIRL, ZATANNA, GREEN ARROW, AND
BLACK CANARY ARE DEAD.

OR ARE THEY?

NEEDING POWER TO
FUEL HIS DEADLY MACHINATIONS,
PARIAH HAS IMPRISONED THE
ESSENCE OF EACH JUSTICE LEAGUE
MEMBER ON CUSTOM-MADE WORLDS
USING HIS EVER-GROWING DARK
ABILITIES. EACH WORLD HAS BEEN
CREATED FROM THE INNERMOST HOPES
OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE...

WHAT PARIAH INTENDS TO DO
WITH THESE WORLDS IS
A MYSTERY.

WELCOME
TO WORLDS WITHOUT A
JUSTICE LEAGUE.

Chapter 1: Thirteen

JON! THAT WAS YOUR FATHER! ON THE RED PHONE!
HE NEEDS YOU DOWNTOWN! THERE'S A ROBOT!
JON! DO YOU HEAR ME?!
JON?!
Writer-Tom King
Artist-Chris Burnham
Colors-Adriano Lucas

Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Superboy created by Jerry Siegel. By Special Arrangement with the Jerry Siegel Family.

MOM! WHERE'S MY SUIT?!

IT'S IN THE **BOTTOM DRAWER.** I WASHED IT. IT WAS FILTHY. I CAN'T **BELIEVE** YOU MET THE PRESIDENT SMELLING LIKE THAT.

MY **MASK** ISN'T HERE! WHAT'D YOU DO WITH IT?!

YOU DIDN'T PUT YOUR MASK WITH YOUR SUIT. IT'S **WHEREVER** YOU LEFT IT. IF YOU WANT **ME** TO WASH IT, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THEM TOGETHER.

WHERE'D YOU LAST **SEE** IT? I'M NOT GOING TO SEARCH THE DAMN **HOUSE,** JON. I'M ON **DEADLINE.** I **WORK** FOR A LIVING.

I DON'T KNOW! I **THINK** I TOOK IT OFF BY THE DOOR!

WELL, LOOK BY THE **DOOR,** MAYBE?! MAYBE IT'S UNDER THE **COUCH!** AM I THE ONE WITH THE **X-RAY** EYES?!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE **LATE!** PEOPLE **LITERALLY** COULD DIE!

FOUND IT. GOT IT.

WAS UNDER THE COUCH.

TELL YOUR FATHER, I HAVE A **THING,** IT'S BIG, I CAN'T COOK, YOU SHOULD PICK UP **SOMETHING** ON THE WAY HOME.

AND **HE** HAS TO WALK KRYPTO.

NOT TOO GREASY, MY STOMACH'S **BOTHERING** ME.

MOM SAID WE **HAVE TO** PICK UP DINNER **AND** WALK THE DOG

SHE HAS LIKE A **NEWSPAPER** THING OR SOMETHING, I DON'T KNOW.

AND NOTHING **GREASY,** SHE SAID. 'CAUSE OF HER STOMACH.

GREAT

THANKS FOR LETTING ME KNOW.

C'MON, DAD, LET'S AT **LEAST** GO TO JUPITER. WE **JUST** DID MARS ON SATURDAY

HOW MUCH **HOMEWORK** DO YOU HAVE?

I DID MY **MATH** SHEETS ALREADY **LANGUAGE ARTS** IS JUST READING I CAN DO DURING FREE PERIOD AND THERE'S LIKE SOME **SCIENCE** STUFF I HAVE TO MEMORIZE.

BUT IT'S NOT **HARD.** I ALREADY KNOW **MOST** OF IT.

IS IT FOR A **TEST?**

I MEAN, LIKE, **YES,** IT'S A **TEST,** BUT IT'S NOT ONE OF THE--

WE'RE GOING **HOME** AFTER THIS.

NO **JUPITER,** NO ARGUMENTS. YOU'VE GOT A **TEST,** YOU STUDY.

=SIGH= YEAH, OKAY, WHATEVER.

LOOK, JON, I **SYMPATHIZE.** JUPITER IS NICE THIS TIME OF YEAR. THE COLORS **REALLY** COME OUT BUT THEY'LL **STILL** BE THERE THIS WEEKEND. WE CAN MAKE A TRIP THEN.

DAD, DO YOU EVER...DON'T YOU **EVER** WANT TO...MAYBE WE SHOULD GO **PAST** THERE, OR PAST PLUTO SOMETIME EVEN. REALLY, Y'KNOW...

REALLY GET **OUT THERE.**

Y'KNOW?

JON...DO I HAVE TO GO OVER THIS **AGAIN?**

NO, **NO,** NOT AT ALL.

I GET IT. I GOT IT.

C'MON, YOUR **MOTHER'S** WAITING.

AND SO IS THAT **TEST.**

Chapter 2: Fourteen

OH, HONEY, DON'T--IT'S JUST A DREAM. IT'S IN YOUR HEAD.
YOU NEED TO GO BACK TO SLEEP. YOU HAVE SCHOOL IN THE MORNING.
IT'S OKAY, EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT. YOU JUST RELAX, PUT YOUR HEAD ON THE PILLOW, AND--

CLARK, WHAT?

IT HAPPENS, NOT EVERY DAY, BUT ONCE IN A WHILE, AND IT'S **HORRIBLE**, AND YOU HAVE TO DO YOUR BEST NOT TO LET IT...

...HURT YOU.

THERE'S **NOTHING** WE CAN DO. IF I COULD, I'D DO IT I SWEAR.

BUT YOU'RE **SUPERMAN.**

AND I'M .I'M **SUPERBOY.**

WE **SAVE** PEOPLE. IT'S WHAT WE **HAVE** TO DO.

YOU DON'T THINK I **TRIED**, SON? YOU DON'T THINK I NEARLY **DIED** TRYING?

BUT THERE'S **ONLY ONE** OF ME, AND THERE'S A WHOLE **UNIVERSE** OF HATE UP THERE.

IT TOOK SOME **HARD** LUMPS, BUT I LEARNED. **THIS** IS THE BEST WE CAN DO, PROVIDING SANCTUARY AND PEACE **HERE**, ON EARTH.

YOU **TRIED?!** WHO THE @*F& ARE YOU?!

DO YOU THINK THAT @*F& **MATTERS?!**

THEY'RE **DYING!**

AND ALL WE'RE #F@*% DOING IS SITTING AROUND LISTENING TO THEM SCREAM!

SIGH

YOU'RE...

YOU'RE RIGHT

I'M SORRY I WISH I COULD'VE DONE BETTER

CLARK.

DAD... **DON'T**... I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T **MEAN** IT.

DAD! **COME BACK!**

I'M SORRY!

IT'S JUST... I DON'T **UNDERSTAND** IT

WE DO **SO** MUCH HERE, AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE CAN'T...

I DON'T-- I'M **SORRY**, OKAY? I JUST **HEAR** THEM, I DON'T KNOW, I'M SORRY

JUST PLEASE, **PLEASE** COME BACK, PLEASE.

PLEASE.

I DON'T **WANT** TO BE ALONE.

DAD.

I...I DIDN'T MEAN... I...

I HEAR THEM.

COME HERE.

I CAN'T **STOP** HEARING THEM.

SHHH.

WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT IN THE **MORNING.** IT'LL LOOK BETTER IN THE MORNING SUN. **YELLOW** LIGHT HAS ALL SORTS OF POWERS.

YOU'RE A **KENT.** YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW THAT.

IT'LL BE **OKAY,** JON.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE. **WE'RE** HERE.

HE WHAT?!

I GOT A **TEXT** IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INTERVIEW WITH THE **AYATOLLAH.** JUST SAYS HE HAD TO **SEE** ABOUT A **THING** ON RANN, AND HE'D BE BACK FOR DINNER.

LITERALLY THE **WHOLE** MESSAGE.

Chapter 3: Fifteen

POW

YOU'RE A LITTLE **TOO** FAR FROM HOME, **BOY.** DIDN'T THE **BIG MAN IN BLUE** WARN YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM HERE?

GUESS YOU'RE LIKE **ME,** HUH? YOU GOT TO **LEARN** THE ROUGH, **PAINFUL** WAY THAT THERE'S ONLY **ONE** REAL TRUTH IN THIS **FORSAKEN** UNIVERSE.

DADDY KNOWS BEST

YOU'RE.. YOU'RE A.. M-MONSTER

HAHAHA.

WHAT MAKES **YOU** SO HIGH-AND-M GHTY YOU STAND JUDGE OF ME?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

POW
HE'S MY SON.

GET UP. WE'RE GOING **HOME.**

DAD...

I CAN'T. THE WAR...

THE WAR IS **HERE.** THEY'RE SUFFERING... **HERE.**

I **NEED** TO.

JON **NOW** IS NOT THE TIME FOR DEBATE. YOU HAVE JUST **SHATTERED** A TRUCE MADE **YEARS** BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

RIGHT NOW, **DARKSEID** IS DEPLOYING HIS **ARMADA OF DEATH.** LIKE THE **BILLION** PLANETS BEFORE IT, EARTH WILL SOON FACE ITS **CRISIS.**

WE WILL GO **HOME.** WE WILL MAKE OUR **STAND.** WE WILL DEFEND OUR **FAMILY.**

WE WILL.

BECAUSE **NO ONE** ELSE CAN.

YES, SIR

IT'S BEEN A **BRUTAL** YEAR. BUT YOU DID WELL. HECK, JON, YOU DID THE **IMPOSSIBLE.** DAY AFTER DAY AFTER DAY.

WE'RE **SAFE.** THE WHOLE **WORLD'S** SAFE. AT LEAST, FOR **A BIT.** BECAUSE OF **YOU.**

SO I THOUGHT. . I MEAN...WELL, YOUR **MOTHER** AND I TALKED, AND I **OBJECTED,** BUT SHE WAS RIGHT-- I CAN'T SAY YOU DIDN'T **EARN** IT.

Chapter 4: Sixteen

HOLY ☆!◎@!

SON, PLEASE.

WATCH YOUR **LANGUAGE.**

IT DOES 0-60 N **ALMOST** A MINUTE. TOPS OUT AT 120.

OH. **REALLY?**

WELL, THAT'S, UH, **PRETTY GOOD**, I GUESS.

17

THAT'S **P.P.H.**, NOT M.P.H.

PARSECS PER HOUR

OH, RIGHT. **COOL.** THAT'S...

I MEAN, HOLY...

...POOP

YOU SHOULD GET **ON.** GIVE IT A WHIRL.

BUT KEEP IT IN **ORBIT** YOUR FIRST TIME OUT.

IT'S A LITTLE **TRICKIER** THAN FLYING AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO THROUGH AN **ASTEROID** BELT BEFORE YOU KNOW ALL THE INS AND OUTS.

JUST BE **CAREFUL**--THERE'S SOME COMPLICATED **KRYPTON** TECH HERE TO KEEP EVERYTHING INTACT AT HIGH SPEEDS.

TAKE IT **SLOW** UNTIL YOU GET USED TO IT, ALL RIGHT?

I'LL TAKE YOU THROUGH **HOW** IT'S BUILT SO JUST IN CASE YOU EVER HAVE **PROBLEMS** AND I'M NOT AROUND, **YOU** CAN KEEP IT GOING.

I **LOVE** IT, DAD.

THANK YOU.

DAMN, LISTEN TO THAT HUM!

REMEMBER, IN **ORBIT.** AND WE **BOTH** KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE. IF I FIND YOU **OUTSIDE** OF THE LINE OF DEFENSE WE PUT UP, WELL...

I **WILL** TELL YOUR MOTHER. THEN **GOD** HELP YOU.

GRMMMMM

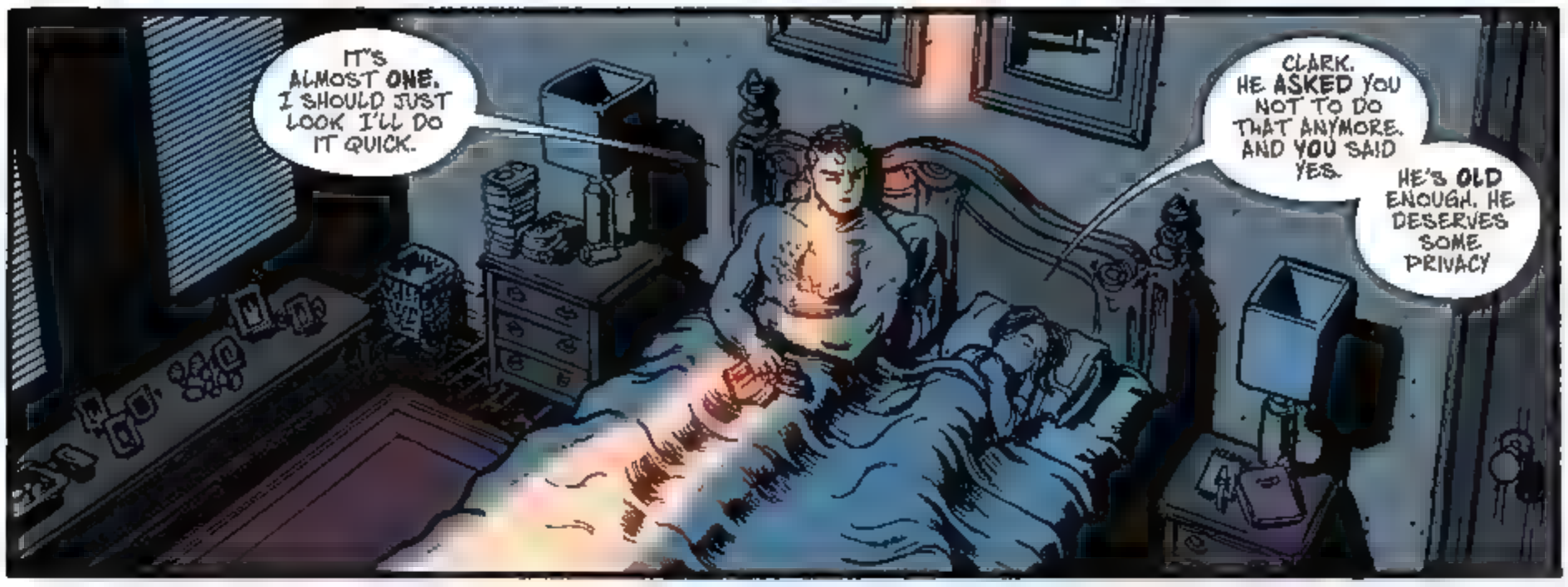
DON'T **WORRY,** DAD

IT'S ALL GOOD

I'M **SERIOUS,** JON! **ORBIT!**

I HAVE **SUPER-VISION!**

I'LL **SEE** YOU!


IT'S ALMOST ONE. I SHOULD JUST LOOK I'LL DO IT QUICK.
CLARK. HE ASKED YOU NOT TO DO THAT ANYMORE. AND YOU SAID YES.
HE'S OLD ENOUGH. HE DESERVES SOME PRIVACY

Chapter 5: Seventeen

IT'S OKAY, BUDDY, YOU'RE HOME. DAD'S HERE.

I HAVE YOU.

NNN...

DAD. I. I'M IT WAS. I HEARD THEM AGAIN. AND I HAD TO. I COULDN'T JUST., I HAD TO, DAD

SHH. NOT NOW, JON. LIE BACK. YOU NEED TO REST. YOU HAVE FOUR BROKEN BONES, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY BAD BLEEDING. A BIT OF A CONCUSSION.

YOU'LL BE FINE.

NO, NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHAT HAPPENED. I...

ORION WAS THERE AGAIN. LAUGHING. AND THESE CHILDREN WERE. HE WAS MURDERING THEM AND I...

JON! DID YOU GO OUT THERE?! WE SPECIFICALLY TOLD YOU...

LOIS, HE'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. WE CAN GO THROUGH THAT IN THE MORNING.

DAD.. I.. I WON. I BEAT HIM.

I.. DAD. I...I SAVED I.

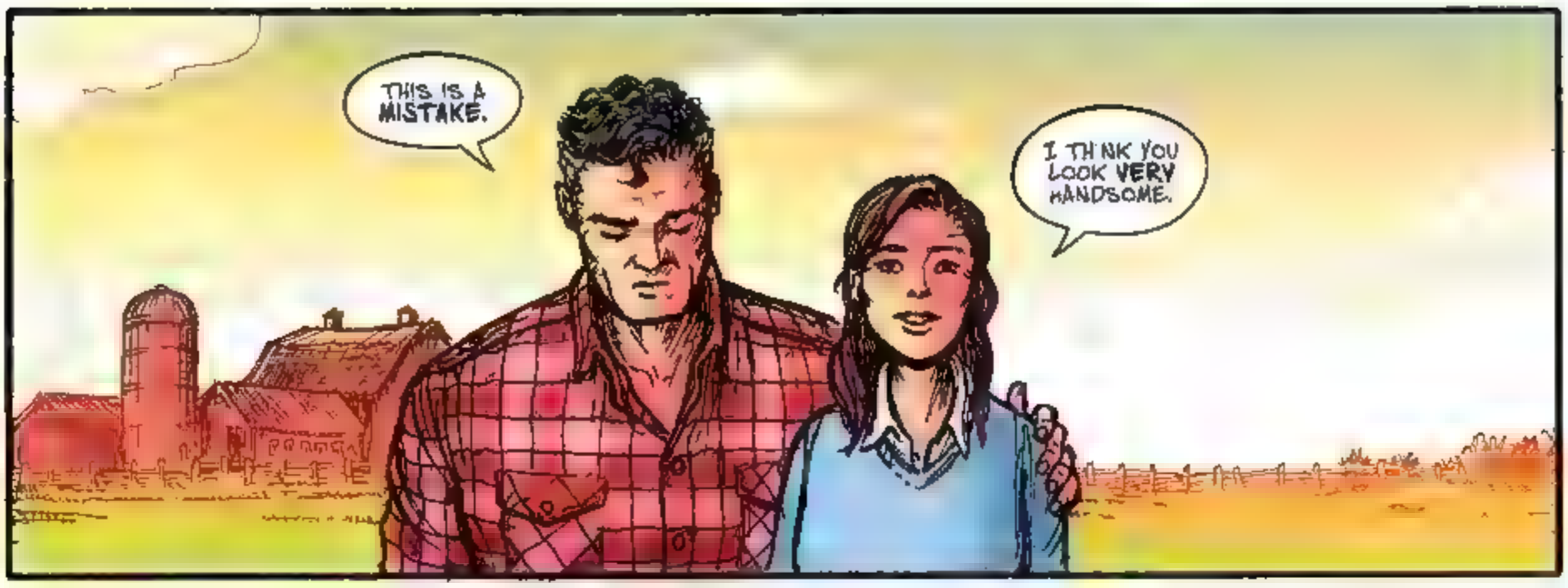
...THE KIDS

CLARK...

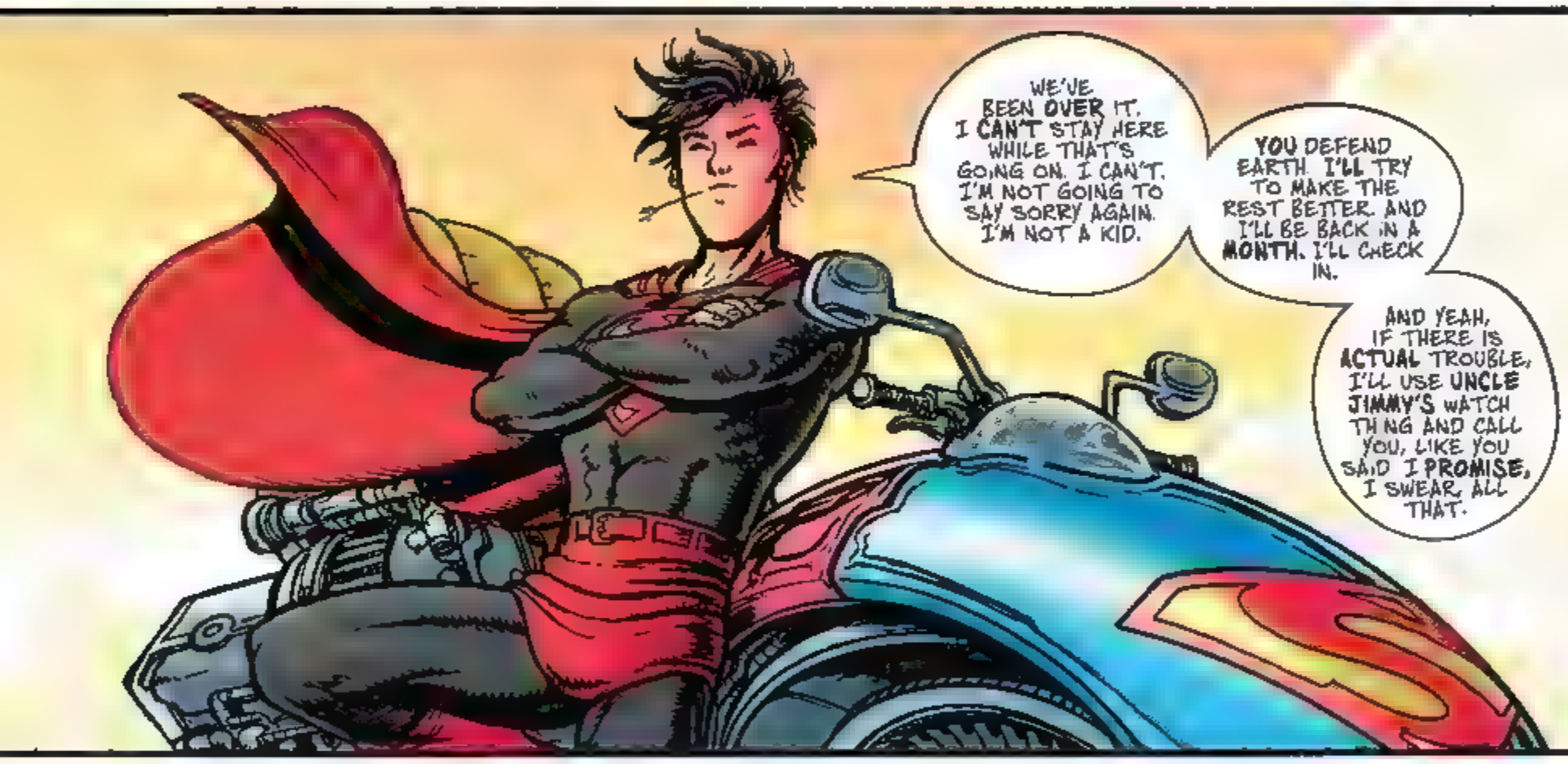
HE'S NOT YOU, AND YOU'RE NOT HIM.

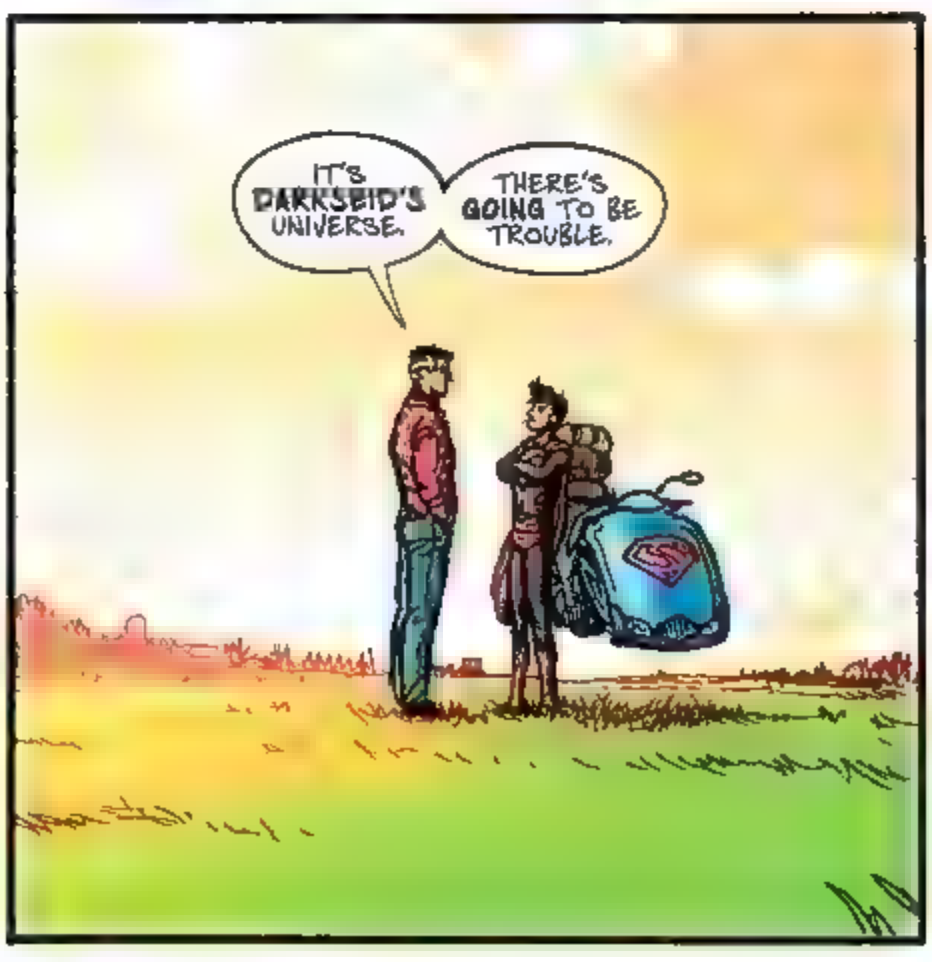
THIS...

THIS IS WHO HE IS.



Chapter 6: Eighteen


WE'VE BEEN OVER IT. I CAN'T STAY HERE WHILE THAT'S GOING ON. I CAN'T. I'M NOT GOING TO SAY SORRY AGAIN. I'M NOT A KID.
YOU DEFEND EARTH. I'LL TRY TO MAKE THE REST BETTER. AND I'LL BE BACK IN A MONTH. I'LL CHECK IN.
AND YEAH, IF THERE IS ACTUAL TROUBLE, I'LL USE UNCLE JIMMY'S WATCH THING AND CALL YOU, LIKE YOU SAID. I PROMISE, I SWEAR, ALL THAT.



COME HERE.

ONE MORE TIME.

DAD...

YOU'RE GOING OFF TO **WAR.** I GET A **HUG.** THOSE ARE THE RULES.

NOW COME HERE.

YES, SIR.

YOU **LISTEN** TO ME. FOR ONCE IN YOUR **WHOLE** LIFE, LISTEN GOOD. WHEN YOU'RE FAR OUT THERE AND IT GETS **TOUGH,** YOU REMEMBER...

YOU CARRY **ALL** OF YOUR PARENTS' LOVE WITH YOU, ALWAYS. THAT WILL...THAT WILL GET YOU THROUGH THE **WORST** OF IT

LIKE **YOUR** LOVE GOT ME THROUGH...LIKE IT **KEEPS** GETTING ME THOUGH **ALL** OF IT

I **LOVE** YOU, JON.

AND I'M SO DARN PROUD OF YOU.

TEENAGERS.

YEARS OF YOU TELLING THEM WHAT TO DO AND THEM IGNORING EVERY WORD

ENDLESS FIGHTS AND ALL THEIR EMOTIONS GOING IN EVERY DIRECTION ALL AT ONCE.

THEM TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO THEY ARE, YOU KNOWING NO ONE EVER ACTUALLY DOES FIGURE OUT WHO THEY ARE.

IT'S A LIVING HELL.

AND WHEN IT'S OVER, WHAT DO YOU GET?

JUST SOMEONE BIGGER TO WORRY ABOUT.

YOU'RE RIGHT, MON.

EVERY WORD.

AND I WOULDN'T TRADE ANY OF IT, NOT A SINGLE SECOND.

FOR...

I WAS THERE, LOIS. I WAS HERE. I SAW HIM.

I GOT TO SEE HIM GROW INTO THE MAN HE HAD TO BE.

I DIDN'T MISS IT THIS TIME.

NO, NO, NO, NOT FOR ANYTHING.

I WOULDN'T TRADE THIS...

...FOR ANYTHING.

ATLANTIS

ARTHUR.

GNN. GRRN

ARTHJR..

I'M SORRY. YOU ASKED ME NOT TO LET YOU OVERSLEEP.

YES. YES, OF COURSE.

THANK YOU, MERA.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE ISN'T IT...?

EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM, AND STILL...

...STILL THEY ENDURE.

I--JUST HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM...

WELL, IT'S ALL OVER NOW. DON'T BE LATE. YOU KNOW HOW HE GETS

UFF!
WAKE UP, OLD MAN! FOCUS!
I'M FINE. LUCKY SHOT.
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
THUNK
GFF!
THINK I LIKED YOU BETTER *BEFORE*, MANTA.
THAT'S REAL FUNNY. YOU NERVOUS OR SOMETHING? IT IS A BIG DAY
WHAT DO YOU THINK *SHE'S* DOING RIGHT NOW?
YOU'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW HER PRETTY WELL OVER THE YEARS
...WHAT DO *YOU* THINK SHE'S DOING, JACKSON?
UFF!
WAKE *UP*, ANDY! OR DO YOU *WANT* TO SHOW UP WITH A BUNCH OF BRUISES ON YOUR FACE?!
IF THAT HAPPENS, I'M *TOTALLY* BLAMING YOU FOR IT...IN FRONT OF *EVERYBODY*.
THUNK
GFF!
THERE SHE IS! WELL STRUCK!
I'D UNDERSTAND IF YOU WERE NERVOUS.
I ADMIT TO BEING SLIGHTLY NERVOUS FOR SOME REASON. I WAS THE FIRST TIME AS WELL.
NO, IT'S NOT THE SPEECH I'M WORRIED ABOUT--I THINK WE MIGHT'VE CHOSEN THE WRONG VENUE
BEEN HAVING NIGHTMARES SOMETHING IS GONNA GO *SERIOUSLY* WRONG.

THE SURFACE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE, ERIC?

OH...*HEY*... I WAS JUST--THERE'S A LOT OF *REALLY* SHARP ROCKS ALL OVER THIS BEACH, YOU KNOW? SOMEONE COULD GET--

MOST OF THE GUESTS ARE *ATLANTEANS,* DUMMY I DON'T THINK THEY *CARE* ABOUT *ROCKS.*

NOW *COME ON*...MR. CURRY WANTS AN UPDATE ON THE MENJ ASAP. EVERYTHING NEEDS TO BE *PERFECT.*

OH, I *HOPE* SO

THE CURRY FAM.LY DESERVES *NOTHING* LESS.

SOGN...

TSK. ANDY, LOOK AT YOUR *FACE.*

I *TOLD* YOU TO SKIP YOUR MORNING WORKOUT

DAD DOESN'T SKIP, GRANDMA DOESN'T SKIP, SO *I* DON'T SKIP--AND YOU CAN *BARELY* SEE IT

I CAN SEE IT. YOUR *FATHER* WILL SEE IT TOO.

WHOA-- WHAT THE--

RELAX. IT'S JUST THEM

YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE MY PARTNER THEY'RE A BIT OF A SHOWOFF

HEY, AQUAWOMAN!

GOT VISUAL CONFIRMATION ON JESS! IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT CHICKENING OUT OF THIS...YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!

THAT'S REAL FUNNY, JACKSON. IS YOUR DAD STILL COMING?

YEAH, LATER ON. SAID HE WOULDN'T MISS IT.

THAT'S *SO* GREAT. BEEN IMAGINING THIS FOR WEEKS--I CAN ALREADY SEE MY FATHER, OFFERING OUT ONE ARM TO HER, AND THE OTHER TO ME...

LATER

I CAN *TOTALLY* SEE THAT BRUISE ON YOUR FACE ANDY YOURS TOO, MOTHER.

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT* YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, SON AND NEITHER DOES SHE

...

WOOOOW.

HOW *LOVELY.*

OH, JACKSON *BY THE WAY...*

THE CATERING ASSISTANT IS ACTUALLY *CHARLATAN* IN DISGUISE

THE *SHAPE-SHIFTER* GUY?

YEAH... THERE'S BOMBS *ALL* OVER THE ISLAND

BUT WE *SHOULDN'T* BE WORRIED?

OH NO, I'M DEACTIVATING THEM ALL NOW.

BE RIGHT BACK. YOU WON'T EVEN KNOW I'VE GONE

CLICK

CLICK CLICK CLICK

NOT WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING, RIGHT?

RIGHT...?

SEE, I'M A NATURALLY RESTLESS PERSON. THE WORLD JUST-- JUST MOVES SO SO SLOOOOOOW.

I LITERALLY *CAN'T* STOP MOVING AND THINKING AND MOVING AGAIN. AND ANDY MADE ME *PROMISE* THAT I WOULDN'T SNEAK A PEEK AT HER BRAND-NEW DRESS, EVEN THOUGH I *TOTALLY* COULD HAVE.

LIKE RIGHT NOW--I'M LENDING YOU A *LITTLE* SPEED FORCE, SO YOU AND YOUR SILLY LITTLE DETONATOR THING CAN ACTUALLY *WATCH* THIS.

LOOK AT HER. LOOK AT THAT *AMAZING* GIRL. AND HER AMAZING FAMILY.

WHY THE *HELL* WOULD YOU WANT TO RUIN THIS? I MEAN, HER GRANDPARENTS ARE RENEWING THEIR VOWS TODAY--ANDY IS GONNA SING AT THE RECEPTION, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SUPER SCARED ABOUT IT.

IT'S ABOUT THE SWEETEST THING IN THE WHOLE WORLD

YEAH, I KNOW YOU'RE LIKE ONE OF ANDY'S--GREATEST VILLAINS OR *WHATEVER*, BUT JUST... *LOOK.*

ONE OF MY *ABSOLUTE* FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT HER IS THIS BIG, WACKY, *AWESOME* FAMILY SHE'S GOT.

THEY'VE ALL BEEN *SO* GREAT, SO SUPPORTIVE TO US... *ESPECIALLY* HER FATHER. HAVE YOU MET HIM BEFORE?

HEY, MR. CURRY--THIS IS ONE OF ANDY'S VILLAINS *CHARLATAN.*

HE TRIED TO BLOW US ALL UP, BUT I STOPPED HIM.

FLASH FACT.

I DON'T KNOW *HOW* MANY TIMES I'VE TOLD YOU, JESS...

...IT'S *ARTHUR.*

JESS...

AND NOW, WITH YOUR LOVE AND COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER AGAIN RENEWED...YOU MAY KISS.

YEAAAAHH!

SEE? OUR LITTLE ANDY IS AMAZING AT *THIS* TOO! ALL THOSE SILLY NERVES FOR NOTHING.

WOOOOOO!

THANK YOU FOR THIS, MR. CJR--*ARTHUR*. SHE WOULDN'T BE UP THERE WITHOUT THE PUSH.

IT'S ALL I EVER WANTED FOR HER TO HAVE *WHATEVER* THE HELL SHE WANTS.

IMPOSSIBLE

IT'S ALL SO IMPOSSIBLE

LOOK AT THIS, MERA...

.. LOOK AT WHAT ALL WE'VE BUILT.

WE *GAVE* THIS TO THEM, AND NOW WE GET IT ALL BACK.

AND MAYBE ONE DAY, IT'LL ALL BE REAL.. LIKE IT WAS *MEANT* TO BE.

BUT IT'S *NOT* REAL. NOT YET.

AQUAMAN
HAS EVERYTHING

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AQUAMAN CREATED BY: PAUL NORRIS

I DON'T HAVE EVERYTHING YET.

I DON'T YET HAVE MY HANDS AROUND YOUR *THROAT.*

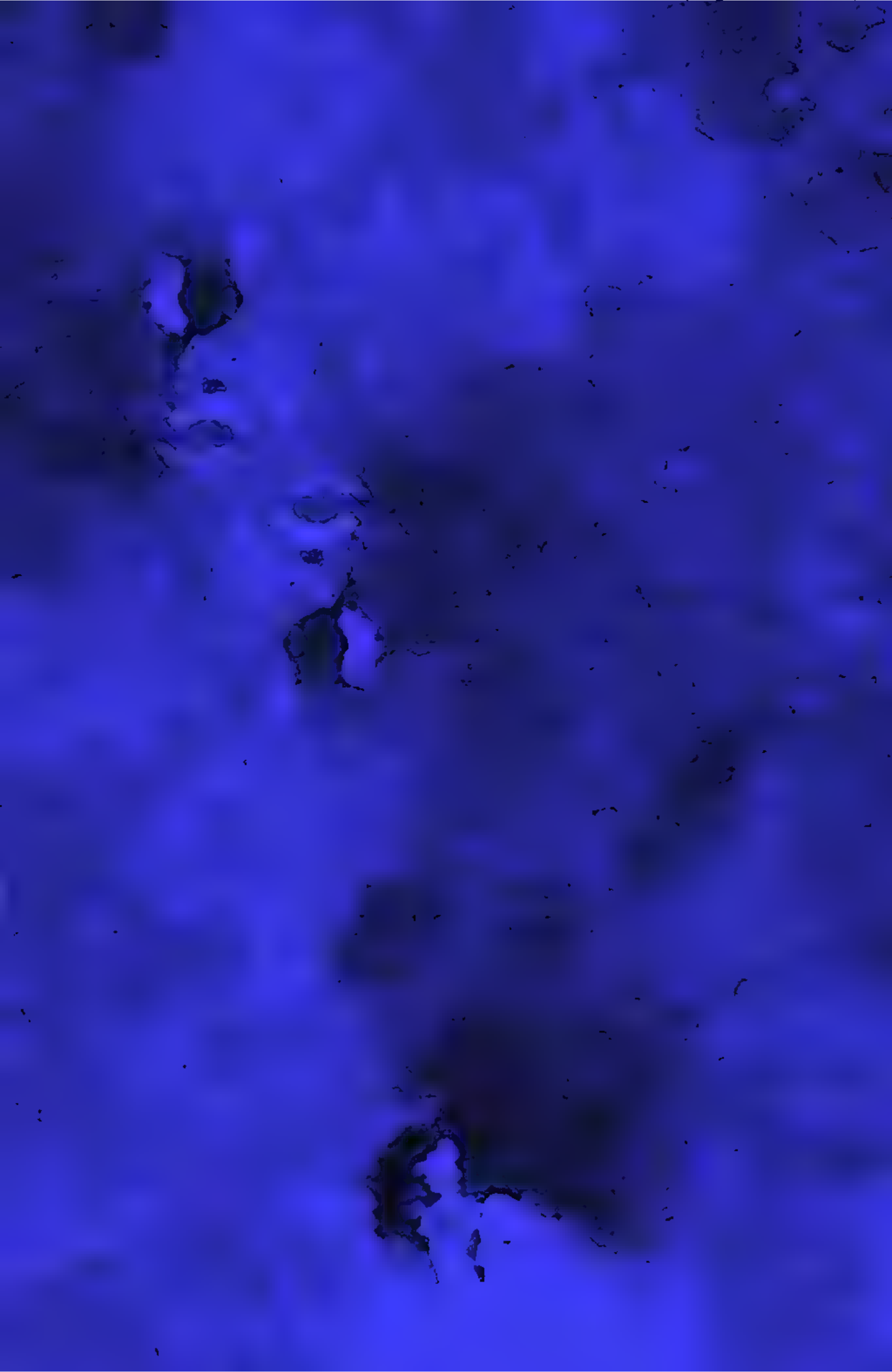
YOU THINK YOU'VE *BEATEN* US--BUT BETTER THAN YOU HAVE TRIED, AND IN THE END, YOU *ALL* LEARN...NOT EVEN *DEATH* WILL HOLD US.

I'VE BEEN DEAD BEFORE, AND I'VE COME *BACK.*

SOON..

.. WE'LL SEE IF YOU CAN SAY THE SAME.

Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League - Green Lantern #1 cover by FERNANDO BLANCO



"Tell me another story, Momma."

BLAM

BLAM

WHOOSH

"What kind of story, Eleanor?"

"One about John

SHH

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

"Tell me how he became the Guardian."

"Well, your brother doesn't like to talk about it much. You know that.

"But before he was the *Guardian*--before he was even a *Green Lantern*--John was a *marine*. Do you know what that is?"

"Nuh-uh."

"A *marine* is a kind of *soldier*.

"Before long, John and a lot of *other* soldiers got sent across the ocean to fight a *war*."

WHACK

No!

Kyle!

"And while he was there... just like every war that ever was...

RRR

KKK

"... something terrible happened."

YAAAARRRRRRGH!

"Bad enough that John did something he wasn't in the habit of doing back then."

KYLE!

FOOM

Jason, it's too late!

"He prayed."

John.

John, we need you.

"He prayed for the strength to save the people who needed him.

"And in a flash of light, where your brother stood..."

...there stood an invincible knight, his eyes blazing with the light of heaven.

That's how your brother became a ***superhero,*** sweetie. Earth's first and greatest.

After the ***Battle of Oa,*** he founded a team of Lanterns called the ***Watchtower*** to protect Earth while he flew all over the Multiverse.

One day, when he'd done what he set out to do, he ***took off*** his ring, and passed it on.

He became an ***architect,*** like he'd always wanted.

And now we all live here together in the house he built for us, and he's ***finally*** putting up a fence to keep the rabbits out of my flowers.

isn't that nice?

Uh-huh.

Enough, all right? I'm working on it. Can I stop hearing about it, please?

You're only hearing about it because you're ***sneaking around*** back there instead of working.

Nobody's sneaking! Can't I take a minute to look at my girls?

Just pretend I'm not here, all right?

Hmm.

What about the war, Momma? What if the...

...th-the..

JOHN.

JOHN.

WE NEED YOU.

Rayner? Is that you?

THEY'VE FOUND HER, JOHN.

MANY OF US HAVE FALLEN.

THE BRIGHT REVENANT IS WITH THEM.

What, Momma?

Did something happen again?

I-it's nothing, sweetie. Why don't you practice your reading for a bit?

I need to talk to your brother

You told me you formed the Watchtower so they *wouldn't need you* anymore. That you were *done* fighting.

It's nothing to worry about. The Corps just needs a hand with--

Don't talk to me like I'm *stupid*, John. She said, "They found her."

You gave me back the daughter I buried. The same age she was when I lost her, and she hasn't aged a day since then.

I *know* a miracle like that has to be paid back someday.

Tell me the truth, John...

. . is that day today?

They're called the *Radiant Dead.*

They're the ones that killed the Old Guardians.

If they'd killed the *Central Battery* like they meant to, there wouldn't be a Corps anymore... probably nothing *else,* either.

So I took the battery from Oa, and I *hid* it...

...in the shape of my baby sister.

It really *is* still her, Mom. My *memory* of her, anyway. She's just... *more* than she used to be.

Don't worry. I'll fix this.

I'll never forget what you did for your sister.

But swear to me you'll come back, too.

I will. I'll come back.

You'll never have to bury *either* of us again.

I've gotta leave for a bit, kiddo. But I won't be long.

Take care of your momma, yeah?

Okay.

And keep practicing your reading. You know we love hearing you read.

I know.

I'll be right back.

And I'll finish that fence.

Where's John going, Momma?

He's going to do what he does, sweetie.

The things *no one else* can do.

"What do you mean, 'no one else'? 'Cause John was a *soldier?*"

"Some people think so. His way of never quitting...his mind for *strategy*, the way he *leads people.*

"But *no*, that's not why.

"John's special because he's a *builder.*

"His mind has always pushed against the *limitations* that were set on him

"Limitations of *resources*, or *time*...even the rules of *three-dimensional space.*

"But he's not limited anymore.

"With his mind, his will, and the power he's been given, he can do *anything.*

"What makes him *special*, even among the other Lanterns...

"...is that he was looking for the ring before he knew it existed.

"My boy's been *the Guardian* since the day he was born."

WOOSH

The Guardian is with us!

SLSHHH

"And whether *any of us* like it or not..."

"...there are some threats only he can face."

SLASH

John!

Sit-rep, Natasha.

Does this situation not speak for itself?

BRAT BRAT BRAT

An hour ago, we had 2,300 Lanterns! We're down to barely a thousand!

932

932!

You should've called me earlier.

TWANG

You're retired!

It's okay. We're gonna get them all back.

If the *big one* gets any closer to the Battery, it's gonna--

Oh god. It's happening.

SKRREEE

Everybody fall back!

The BRIGHT REVENANT is awake!

It's headed for Earth!

It's after the Battery.

I've got him.

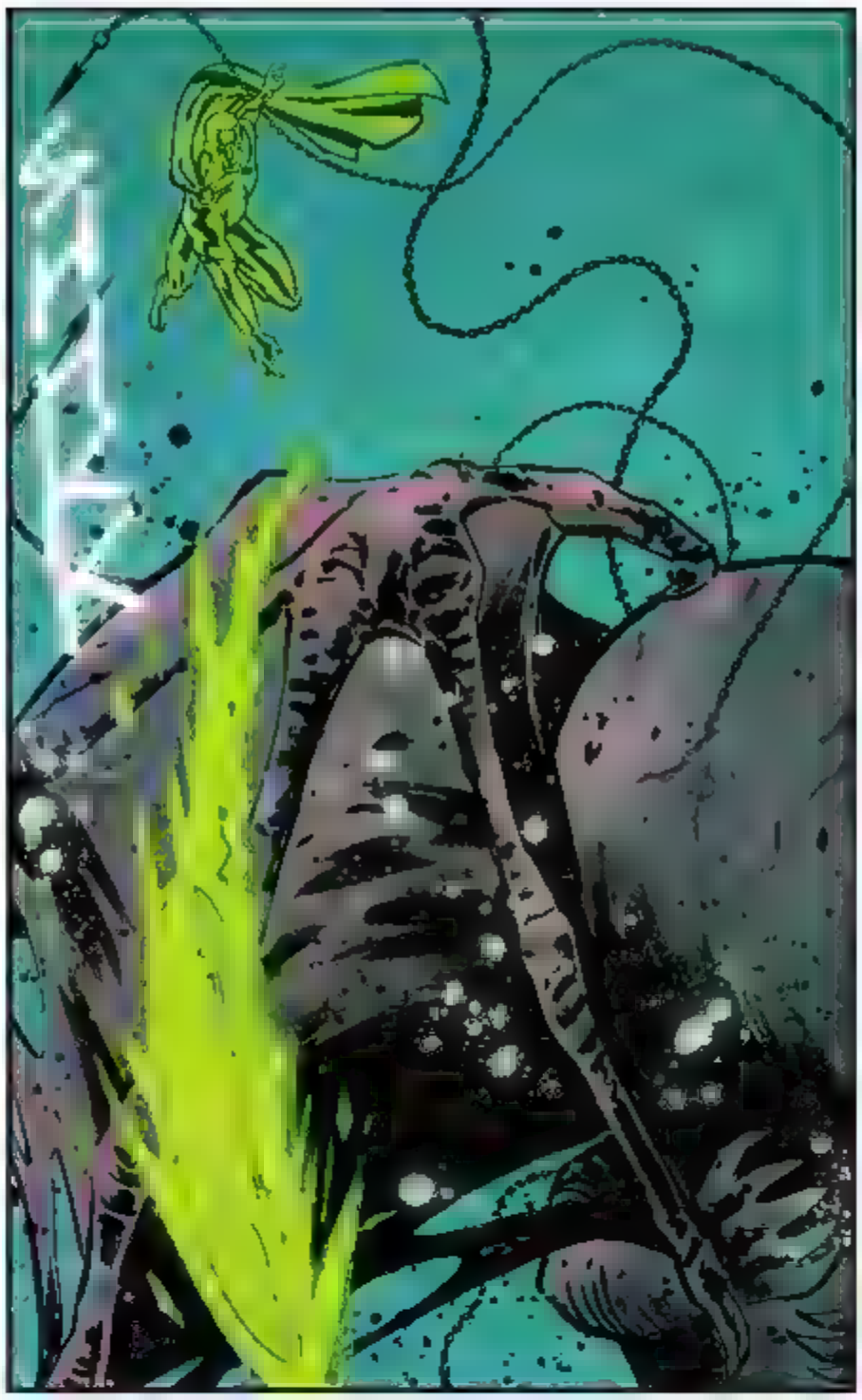
You're not wrong to be afraid, kid. But you're wrong to let them see it.

You've...? What, alone?!

John, it'll kill you!

We're Lanterns.

Let our enemies fear us.



I know what you are.

I know how old you are and how strong.

I know you've killed the greatest heroes and gods of a thousand worlds.

KKRRRR KKKKRRRR

But this isn't *their* home you're threatening now.

It's *mine.*

BAM BOOM

The Guardian!

All hail the Guardian!

Hail John Stewart!

"Your brother was the greatest of all time. He always will be.

"But he *did* his time as a superhero."

Like all the heroes in the old stories, his works of war are done. Now he's doing his works of *peace*.

Will the monsters come back, Momma?

Will they try to take me away again?

No, sweetie.

With your brother John around...

"...we'll *never* be apart again."

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

DARK CRISIS: WORLDS WITHOUT A JUSTICE LEAGUE

GREEN LANTERN

PHILLIP KENNEDY JOHNSON SCRIPT
FERNANDO BLANCO ART
JORDIE BELLAIRE COLORS
TROY PETERI LETTERS
FERNANDO BLANCO COVER
MARIO "FOX" FOCCILLO AND PRASAD
RAD PRESSY VARIANT COVER
CHRIS ROSA ASSOCIATE EDITOR
PAUL KAMINSKI EDITOR

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS. THREE YEARS OF RESEARCH. THREE YEARS OF TRACKING DOWN LEGENDS AND MYTHS. ALL LEADING HERE.

THE TEMPLE OF LIFE.

AND THE TWO MEN WITH ME? ABOUT AS TRUSTWORTHY AS SOMEONE WITH THE LAST NAME LUTHOR.

BUT LIKE LUTHOR, THEY'D DO *ANYTHING* FOR CASH.

NOW?

WHICH IS GREAT, BECAUSE I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE CARRYING THE BAGS.

BAGS I'M SURE THEY THINK THEY'LL FILL WITH TREASURE AFTER THEY GET RID OF ME.

BOY, DID THEY GET *THAT* WRONG.

SWING

MY NAME IS KENDRA SAUNDERS, SOMETIMES KNOWN AS HAWKGIRL. AND I'M NOT DYING TODAY.

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE.

I'M SURE THESE GOONS'LL BE OKAY. I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE THE JUNGLE IS TEEMING WITH POISONOUS ANIMALS BUGS, SNAKES...OH WAIT.

BUT THEY MIGHT FARE BETTER WITH *THOSE* THAN WHAT'S IN *HERE*.

AHHHHH!

DARK CRISIS

WORLDS WITHOUT A JUSTICE LEAGUE

HAWKGIRL

JEREMY ADAMS: SCRIPT
JACK HERBERT: ART
ALEX GUIMARÃES: COLOR
TROY PETERI: LETTERS
CHRIS ROSA: ASSOCIATE EDITOR
PAUL KAMINSKI: EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JOE SHUSTER AND JERRY SIEGEL.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

IT'S CALLED THE TEMPLE OF LIFE, BUT IT'S REALLY ANYTHING *BUT*.

EXACTLY WHAT I NEED.

I KNOW, SOUNDS STRANGE, BUT SO IS MY LIFE...OR *LIVES*, AS IT WERE.

I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN REINCARNATED HUNDREDS OF TIMES, AND WHAT'S EVEN WILDER, I *REMEMBER* EACH OF THOSE LIVES.

SOUNDS FUN, RIGHT? TO KEEP COMING BACK?

KNOWING IF I LANDED IN A PIT LIKE THESE GUYS BELOW ME, I'D JUST APPEAR IN A NEW BODY READY TO TRY AGAIN.

LIKE SOME SORT OF MYSTICAL VIDEO GAME WITH INFINITE LIVES.

BUT WHAT I THOUGHT WAS A BLESSING TURNED OUT TO BE A CURSE. A BURDEN.

I REALIZED THAT NO MATTER WHAT I DID, IT WAS SOMETHING I HAD DONE BEFORE. A LIFE OF PERPETUAL SAMENESS.

I WAS NO LONGER UNIQUE. I WASN'T EVEN A PERSON. NOT REALLY. I WAS...A VESSEL WAITING TO BE EMPTIED AND FILLED UP AGAIN AND AGAIN...

"IT'S LIKE DA VINCI SAID, "I THOUGHT I WAS LEARNING TO LIVE. I WAS ONLY LEARNING TO DIE."

BUT TODAY THAT CHANGES.

TODAY I GET MY LIFE BACK. I GET MY MORTALITY.

THUMMMBELLE

AND NOTHING IS GOING TO STOP ME!

CRASSHHHH

NOT EVEN ANCIENT DEATH TRAPS.

THERE IT IS. THE VASE OF MORTALITY.

LEGEND HAS IT THAT AN ANCIENT GOD-KING CREATED THE WORLD AND MADE EVERYTHING IN IT IN HIS IMAGE--IMMORTAL. NOTHING DIED, AND BECAUSE OF IT, NOTHING LIVED.

THE BEAUTY OF THE WORLD THAT WAS ONCE SO VIBRANT, OVER TIME TURNED DULL.

THE GOD'S SON AND DAUGHTER TOLD THE GOD-KING HE WAS WRONG TO MAKE THE WORLD LIKE THEM, AND THE KING AGREED.

HE CRIED A RIVER OF TEARS, WHICH FILLED THE EARTH. AND WHEN THE TEARS RECEDED, THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS HAD REGAINED THEIR LUSTER. THEY KNEW THAT THEIR LIVES WOULD END, AND THEREFORE THEY HAD BETTER GET TO LIVING THEM.

NO MORE PAST, NO MORE FUTURE, NO MORE "DESTINY."

JUST TODAY.

JUST THE CHANCE TO MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS, TO CHOOSE MY OWN RELATIONSHIPS, TO SOMEDAY PASS AWAY KNOWING THAT I WAS UNIQUE TO MYSELF, A SNOWFLAKE NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

I WAS SPECIAL.

YOU DO THIS, KENDRA. THAT'S IT. YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE MORE SHOT AT LIFE.

GLUG GLUG

I FEEL... FINE.

MAYBE IT WAS JUST A STUPID MYTH--

ACK!

AHHHHH... AHHHH... AHH... *HUFF*

IT'S GONE. THE MEMORIES. THE LIVES.

I'M ALIVE. THE DREAM OF MY FUTURE MY OWN. NO MORE REINCARNATION. JUST THE LIFE AHEAD OF ME AND WHAT I CHOOSE TO MAKE OF IT.

ACK!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! THIS IS IT? THIS IS HOW IT ENDS? NOW?!

AND NO MORE...NO MORE COMING BACK! THIS IS HOW I DIE?

SO WHY DO I FEEL SO ALIVE?

HAH!

CRACK

MY HEART IS BEATING FASTER THAN IT EVER HAS.

THIS IS WHAT IT FELT LIKE BEFORE I KNEW ABOUT THE PAST.

THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO KNOW THE FUTURE IS YOUR OWN.

CRUNCH

SMASH

NOT ONE THAT IS HANDED TO YOU.

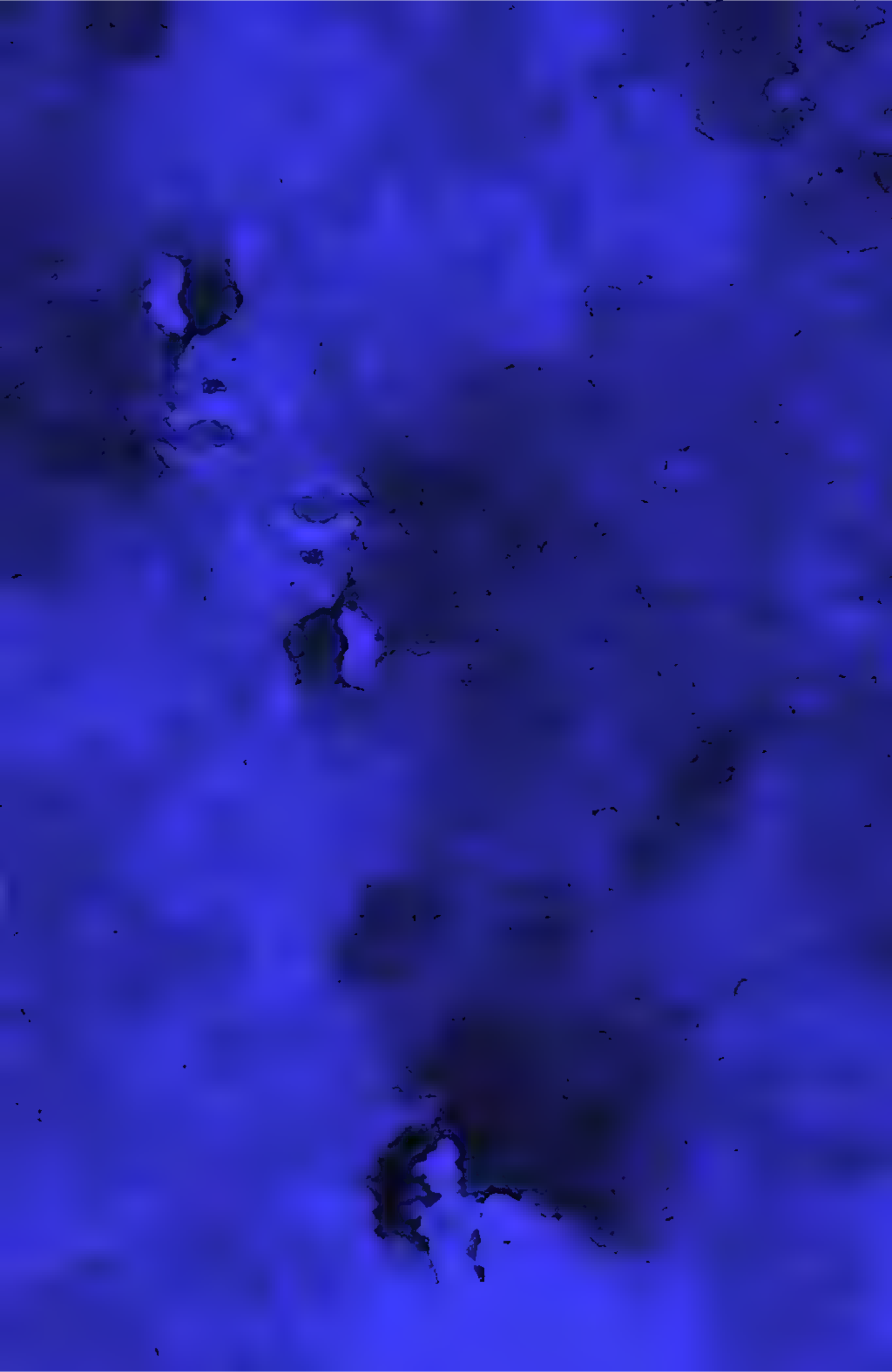
...BUT ONE THAT YOU FIGHT FOR.

THAT'S TRUE LIVING.

THAT'S THE DREAM OF MY HEART

HAHAHAHHAHAHAHAHA!

HAHAHAHHAHAHAHAHA!

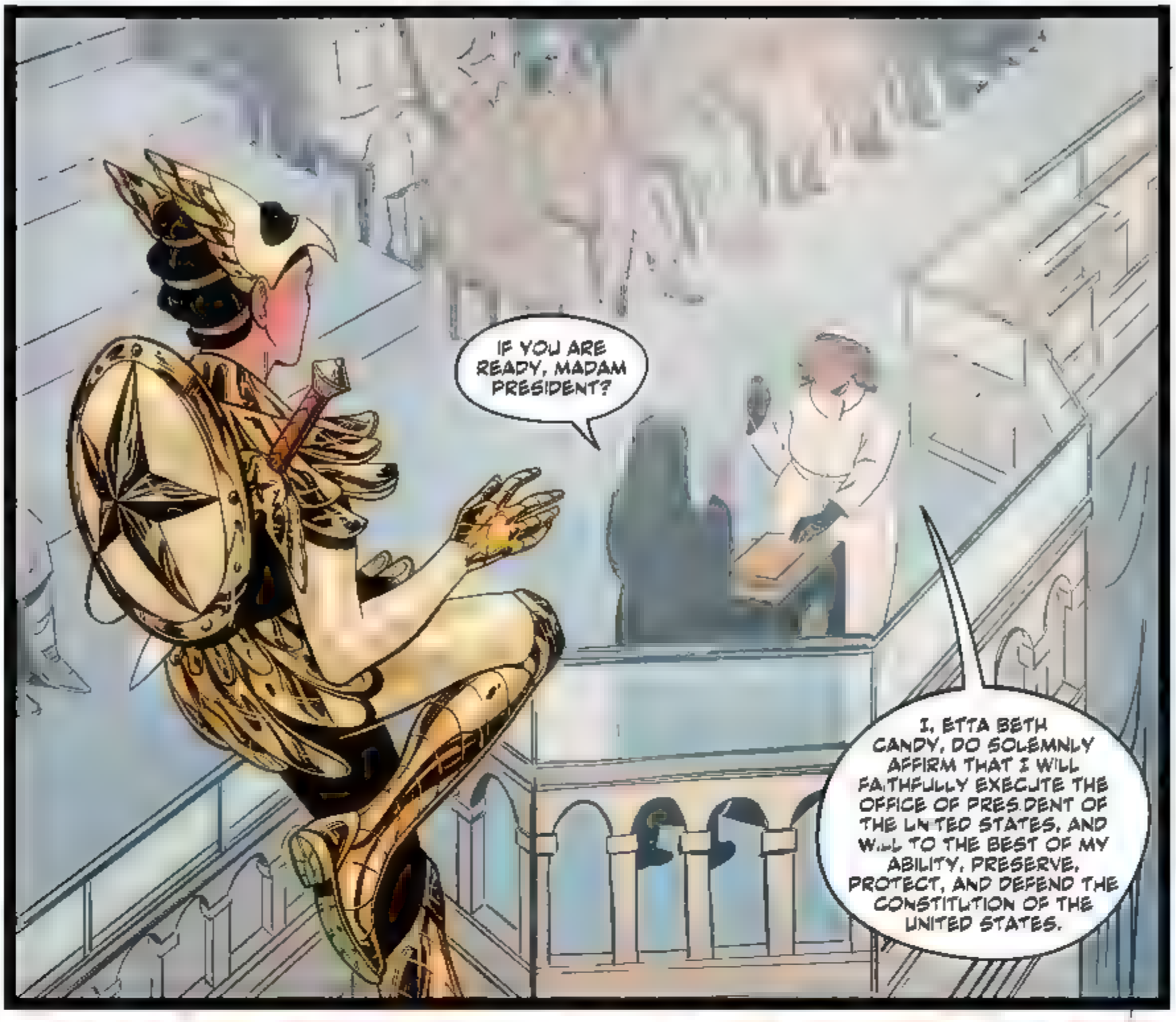


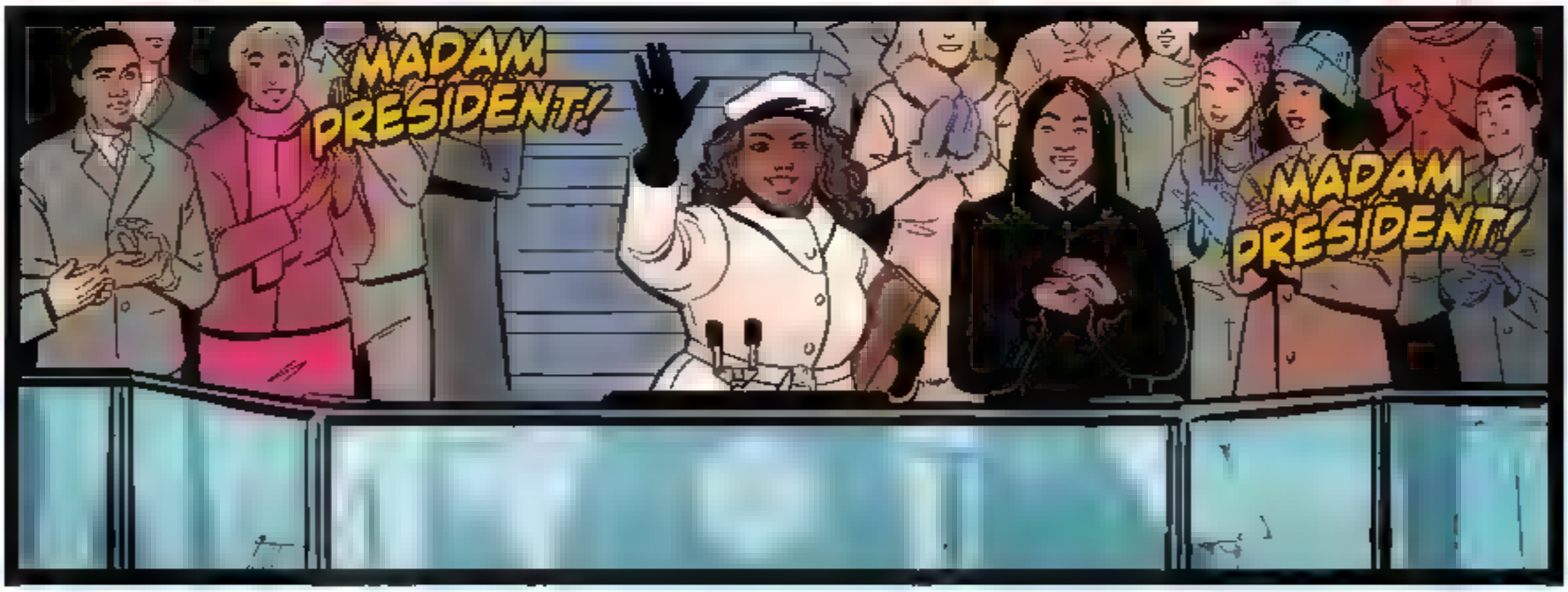
"IN OUR COUNTRY, *JUSTICE* IS A CONCEPT W TH A COMPLICATED H STORY.

"BUT OUR PRESENT, *TODAY*, IS *TOMORROW'S* H STORY. EQUIPPED WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE, WE CAN MAKE *NEW* HISTOR ES, ONES WHERE *JUSTICE* IS TRULY...FOR *ALL*.

"AND THAT IS WHY I AM HONORED TO CONTINUE MY WORK...

"...AS YOUR PRESIDENT."


IF YOU ARE READY, MADAM PRESIDENT?
I, ETTA BETH CANDY, DO SOLEMNLY AFFIRM THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND WILL TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.


MADAM PRESIDENT!
MADAM PRESIDENT!

ETTA. I AM...SO SORRY TO RUN LATE, MY FRIEND! THERE WAS A BOMB SCARE AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE AND--
YOU GOT HERE *JUST* IN TIME, DIANA.
I ASSUME YOU'RE HERE FOR THE BOOK? I KNOW YOUR MOTHER WASN'T *THRILLED* ABOUT IT LEAVING THE ISLAND...

I'M HERE TO CELEBRATE *YOU*, MY FRIEND! IT IS A *GREAT* DAY FOR YOU!

BUT AH...YES, MY MOTHER *DOES* WANT THAT BACK.

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME BORROW IT.

IT NEVER SEEMED RIGHT TO SWEAR .N ON ANYTH NG ELSE. YOU AND YOUR KIND ARE THE PINNACLE OF WHAT R!GHT *LEADERSHIP* IS, TO ME.

OH, ETTA.

ENOUGH OF THAT, SILLY! I AM HERE ABOUT A *GIFT.*

DIANA...YOU GOT ME A GIFT FOR MY *FIRST* NAUGURATION.

FLASH!

FLASH!

YES, BUT YOU GAVE IT TO THE *SMITHSONIAN.*

TH S ONE IS FOR *YOU* ALONE.

TONIGHT. AFTER YOUR PEOPLE ARE THROUGH CELEBRATING YOU, WE W LL SL P PAST THE *SO-CALLED SECURITY* OF *MAN'S* WORLD...

...FOR THE *TRUE* SECURITY OF MY KIND.

THE TRIAD OF THE AMAZONS.

DIANA... YOU'RE BRINGING ME TO THE *CAPITAL?*

I HOPE EVERY-TH NG'S OKAY...

YOU KNOW THAT MY OFFICE LIMITS MY ABILITY TO AID YOU OFFICIALLY. AND MY TIME IS *PRETTY CAREFULLY WATCHED* LATELY.

BUT I'LL DO ANYTHING I CAN FOR YOU AND YOUR TRIBE.

I SAID THIS WAS A GIFT, BTTA.

WE ARE HERE FOR *YOU*, IN *HONOR* AND *THANKS.*

OOF!

HAAAHAAAA!

WHUMP

ARTEMIS! WE HAVE *COMPANY.*

OH, SHOULD I HAVE CHALLENGED *HER* FIRST? WAS THAT RUDE OF ME?

C'MON. EVERYONE'S *WAITING* ON YOU!

ETTA BETH CANDY.

YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR POWER. AND YOU HAVE WIELDED IT *WELL.*

FOR *SIXTEEN SEASONS* YOU HAVE SAT IN THE MOST *PRECARIOUS OFFICE* OF MAN'S WORLD...AND YOU HAVE WIELDED THE POWER WELL. BUT WE AMAZONS DO NOT SIMPLY MAKE *SISTERS* OF THOSE WHO CAN DO THEIR *JOB.*

THIS GIFT WE GIVE YOU IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE *DEFEATED YOUR ENEMIES* IN AN IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE.

VICTORY IN THE VOTE IS YOURS, AND YOU WILL DO THIS JOB FOR *SIXTEEN SEASONS MORE*

AND YOU WILL DO IT... AS AN HONORARY *AMAZON.*

TO OUR NEW SISTER, ETTA-BETH!

AYIYIYIYIYI!

MINERVA. I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME.

OF COURSE.

IT WOULDN'T LOOK VERY GOOD IF THE *LAST* HONORARY AMAZON D DN'T COME UP TO THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEXT ONE.

SPEAKING OF WH.CH--D.ANA, I KNOW THE SECRET SERVICE ARE *VERY* FOND OF YOU, BUT IF I DON'T GET HOME SOON--

THE WARDENS OF CHRONOS HAVE BEEN WEAVING A TAPESTRY ALL N.GHT. TIME HASN'T MOVED S NCE WE SET FOOT HERE.

I PROM SE!

..THE WHAT?

SHE'S RIGHT! IT'S A FASC.NATING EFFECT. I'VE GOT AN ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT WHENEVER I LEAVE HERE--BJT RIGHT *NOW*, I'LL HAVE ANOTHER DRINK.

JOIN US! *BE MERRY!*

NDEED. WE CELEBRATE YOJR VICTORY, ETTA, BECALSE IT MEANS THAT AS OF *TONIGHT*, SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST POTENT POWER IS .N THE HANDS OF OLR *SISTER*.

WE CAN SLEEP *SAFE*.

MORNING.

YOU HAVE TO BE FASTER, JUMPA!

I DON'T CARE THAT YOU HAD MORE WINE THAN I DID LAST NIGHT, KEEP UP!

OOOH! I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO *LISTEN*--

WHOOOSH

IT'S NOT CHEATING!

I JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE SOMEWHERE TO BE!

THERE SHE IS.

MOTHER?

...AH, LOOK, MY QUEEN! WE ARE BLESSED.

DARLING DAUGHTER. WHAT IS IT YOU NEED OF ME?

I WANTED TO RETURN YOUR BOOK. I KNOW IT WAS A *PERSONAL* GIFT TO YOU, ONCE UPON A T.ME.

MM, THANK YOU.

WHAT IS TH S PLACE? WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?

OH, JUST ONE OF OUR BELOVED ARTISTS AGAIN.

A B.T OF SCULPTURE.

...WHY WOULD THAT BRING B.A THE SEER TO YOU?

MAY I... SEE THIS SCULPTURE? IF B.A MADE IT, I'M CUR.OUS TO SEE HER TALENT--

NO, D.ANA.

MOTHER...

IT ISN'T THE WAY OF THE AMAZONS TO KEEP SECRETS.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WOULD BE ANGRY AT YOU FOR SAYING SUCH THINGS, IMPLYING YOU KNEW OUR PEOPLE BETTER THAN I.

BUT WE ARE BOTH TOO WISE FOR THAT NOW, AND FOR A MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TO BOTH REACH THAT AGE IS A GIFT. I--

--DIANA!

THIS IS FAMILIAR TO ME...

...BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH THINGS *HERE.*

...THESE ARE WEAPONS FROM MAN'S WORLD!

MOTHER. HOW COULD YOU! A MISSILE?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF WHAT YOU SPEAK, DAUGHTER.

NOW COME OUT OF THERE.

...WHY IS YOUR SWORD DRAWN, MOTHER?

COME. FORWARD.

NO!

GUARDS!

STOP HER--BUT DO NOT HARM HER!

WHANGG

YOU KNOW NOT WHAT YOU SEEK!

CLANG!

I SEEK TRUTH, MOTHER!

THEN TRUTH...

MOTHER--

DIANA--YOU'RE TOO CLOSE-- GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

...YOU SHALL HAVE.

DIANA!

SPLSH

DAMN YOU BOTH...YOU MAY BE MY *SISTERS*, BUT...

...I HAD BUT *ONE* REQUEST OF YOU.

NEVER LET MY DAUGHTER NEAR THE WELL OF SOULS!

THIS...CANNOT BE THE WELL OF SOULS.

MY MOTHER... MY SISTERS...THEY WOULD NEVER LET THE ORIGIN OF OUR KIND BECOME SO BLEAK AND BARREN.

I FEEL LIKE I'VE DRUNK FROM THE RIVER LETHE...NONE OF THIS SEEMS FAMILIAR...

YOUUU... TOO?

SO...IT'S TRUE...

...WOMEN... ALWAYS... TURN...ON YOU... IN THE END... HEH.

DR. PSYCHO!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE? GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON NOT TO CUT YOUR THROAT--

HEH.

SEE FOR YOURSELF.

"I'VE GOT NOTHING TO *LIE* ABOUT ANYMORE.

"WE DIDN'T *ALWAYS* HAVE THE HELP OF YOU AMAZONS.

"YOU NAGS WERE ANNOYING...

"WE JUST WANTED TO KILL EACH OTHER IN *PEACE*. LIKE *MEN!*

"YOU'RE *STILL* ANNOYING."

"BUT *DAMN* IF YOU WEREN'T *STRONG* ENOUGH TO KEEP US FROM BLOWING UP *YOUR* HOMES.

"IT WAS INSPIRING.

"AND I THINK FOR *SOME* GUYS...*NOT ME*...*BUT SOME*... A LITTLE *SCARY*.

"WE ALMOST KILLED EVERYTHING AND Y'ALL PROVED YOU REALLY DID HAVE THE POWER TO BRING IT BACK TO LIFE. IT WASN'T SOME PATCHOULI WOMB CRAP.

"YOU WERE REALLY *BETTER THAN US* ALL ALONG."

COME WITH US.

HUP!

GAIA DEMANDS *SACRIFICE*.

RUMMMBLE

AND YOU DIDN'T *GLOAT* ABOUT IT, EITHER.

HOW COULD I *NOT HAVE KNOWN?*

UH-OH.

RUMMMBLE

NUBIA! MOTHER!

WHAT IS THIS?

DIANA, COME NOW.

YOU HAVE TRIGGERED SOMETHING YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?

ME?

YOU THINK I WOULD DO THIS?

YOU BLAME YOUR *MOTHER* FOR THE CRUEL TRUTH WE ALL KNOW?

THE HORROR WE ALL WITNESS?

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?

"...IT WAS *YOU* WHO MADE THE BARGAIN WITH GAIA TO SAVE MAN'S WORLD.

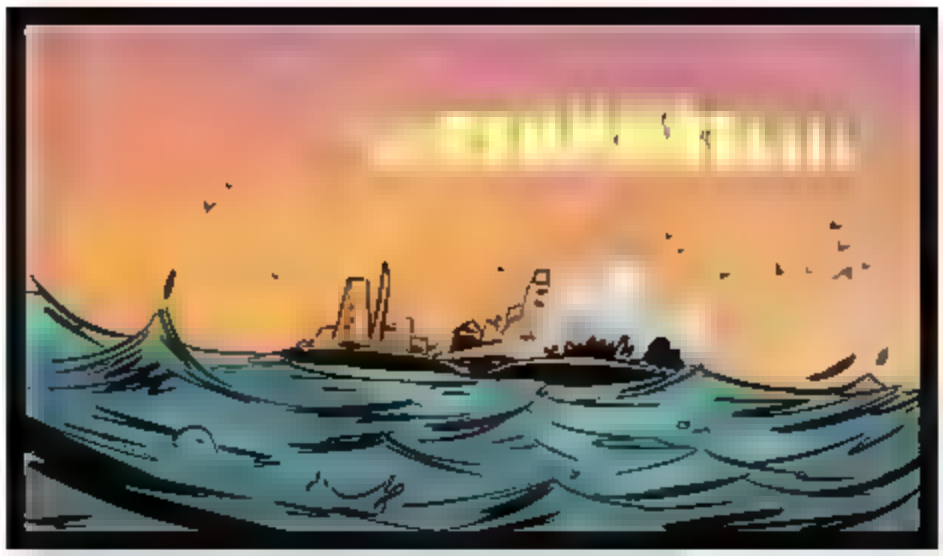
"THAT THIS MAN WOULD SUFFER, EVERY DAY, THAT WE WOULD FEED HIM LIKE A PRISONER SO THAT GAIA COULD DRINK HIS BLOOD...

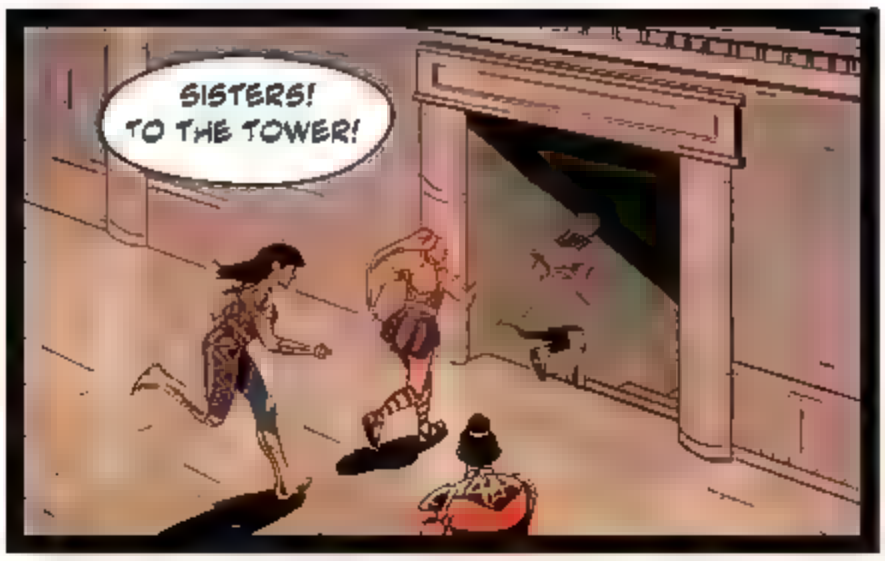
"IT WAS *YOU* WHO GAVE UP THE WELL OF SOULS SO THAT GAIA WOULD HEAL THE EARTH!

RUMBBLLE

BUT OUR MAGIC MADE SURE YOU REMEMBERED *NOTHING* OF IT.

I WANTED TO HIDE IT FROM YOU. BUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE *TRUTH* IS JUST TOO STRONG.

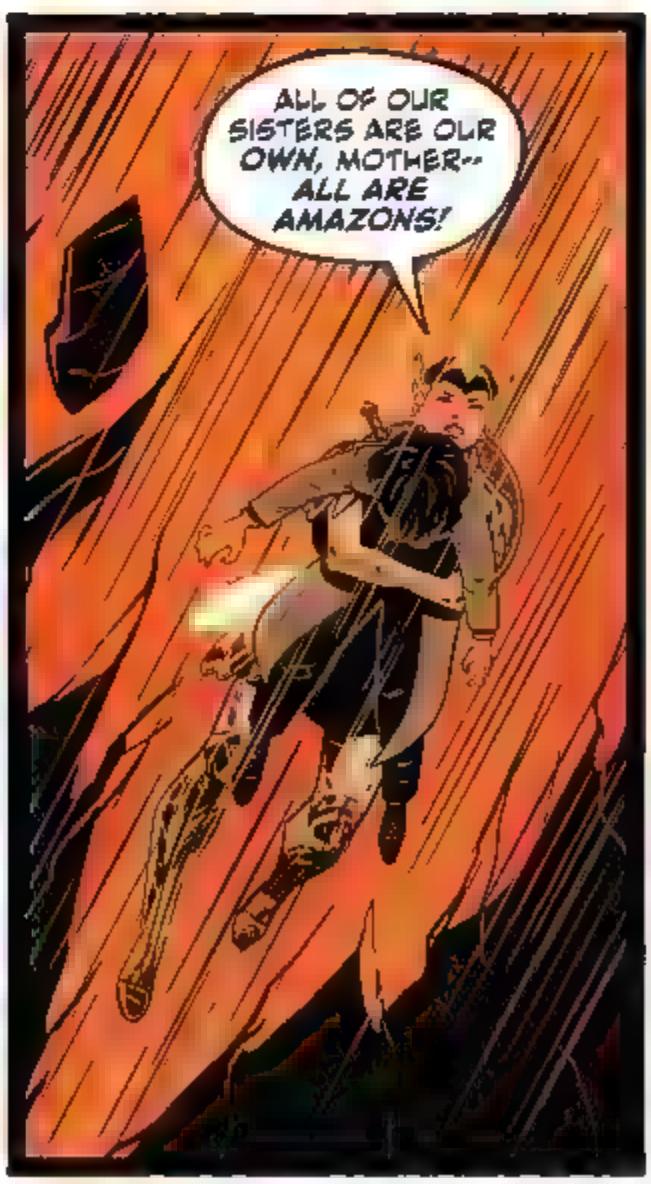



SISTERS! TO THE TOWER!

MOTHER, WHAT IS HAPPENING?! HAVE YOU MADE MISSILES OF MAN IN OUR HOME?
NO, MY DAUGHTER-- I HAVE MERELY PREPARED!

"BIA FORETOLD THAT WHEN YOU FOUND OUT THE TRUTH, IT WOULD CAUSE A CRUMBLING.
"OUR WAYS WOULD COLLAPSE ON THEMSELVES. AND SO I BUILT US...A WAY OUT.

WE MUST GO NOW!
WHAT ABOUT ETTA? ISN'T SHE ONE OF OURS?
SHE S OF THEIR WORLD, DIANA.
SHE WIELDS THEIR POWER.


ALL OF OUR SISTERS ARE OUR OWN, MOTHER-- ALL ARE AMAZONS!

I WON'T LEAVE ETTA BEHIND ALONE.

AT LEAST LEAVE GAIA HER SACRIFICE TO CONSUME, SISTER.

IT IS TIME WE *LEAVE* THIS PLANET TO THE *MEN WHO DESTROYED IT*. WE WILL FIND A NEW MOTHER AMONG THE *STARS* AND RETURN FOR OUR HOME WHEN WE CAN HEAL AND LIBERATE IT!

IS THIS HOW YOU MAKE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND MAN'S. ONCE AND FOR ALL, THEN?!

SO BE IT!

YOU.

I JUST LET MY MOTHER, MY FAMILY, AND ALL OF MY PEOPLE SAIL AWAY INTO THE SKY. BECAUSE I CHOSE TO STAY *HERE* WITH *MAN'S* WORLD.

AND I NEED YOU TO TELL ME *WHY.*

I SPOKE NO LIE.

WHO IS WONDER WOMAN IF SHE IS NOT A *WONDER* TO THOSE AROUND HER? NO *WONDER* YOU WOULD CRAVE A WORLD LIKE THIS ONE--A TERRIBLE PLACE THAT ONLY *YOU* ARE WILLING TO SAVE.

WHAT?! A WORLD *LIKE THIS ONE?* I WOULD *CRAVE* IT?

SPEAK, AGAIN. *THE TRUTH.*

WHAT ARE WONDER WOMAN'S *DESIRES?*

NO MATTER HOW *INDEFENSIBLE* THE WORLD OF MEN BECOMES--SHE WILL CHOOSE IT. BECAUSE AMAZONS ARE YOUR *PEERS.*

BUT TO *MEN,* YOU WILL BE A *GOD, FOREVER.*

AND THAT'S WHAT YOU *REALLY* WANT, ISN'T IT?!

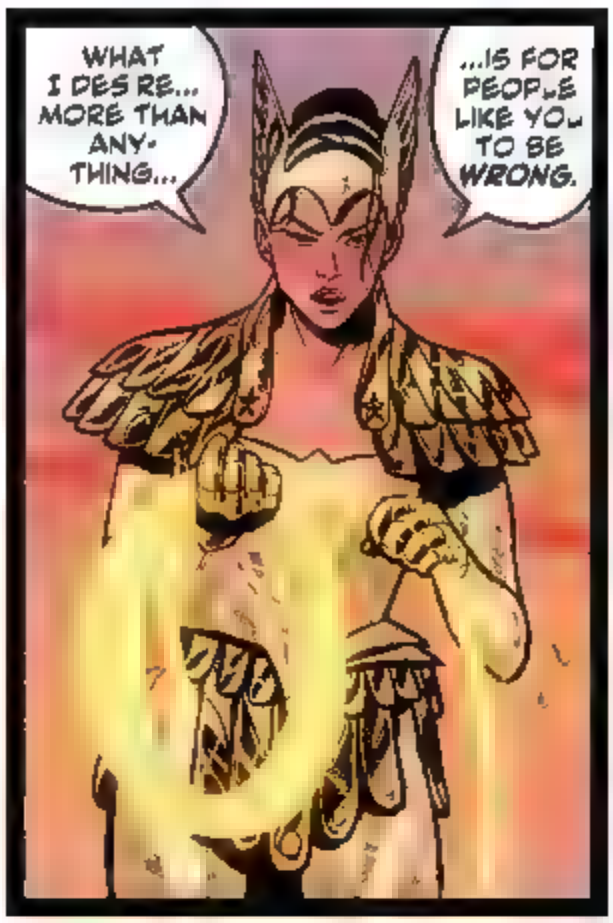
TO BE A BEAUTIFUL PARIAH LIKE ME?!

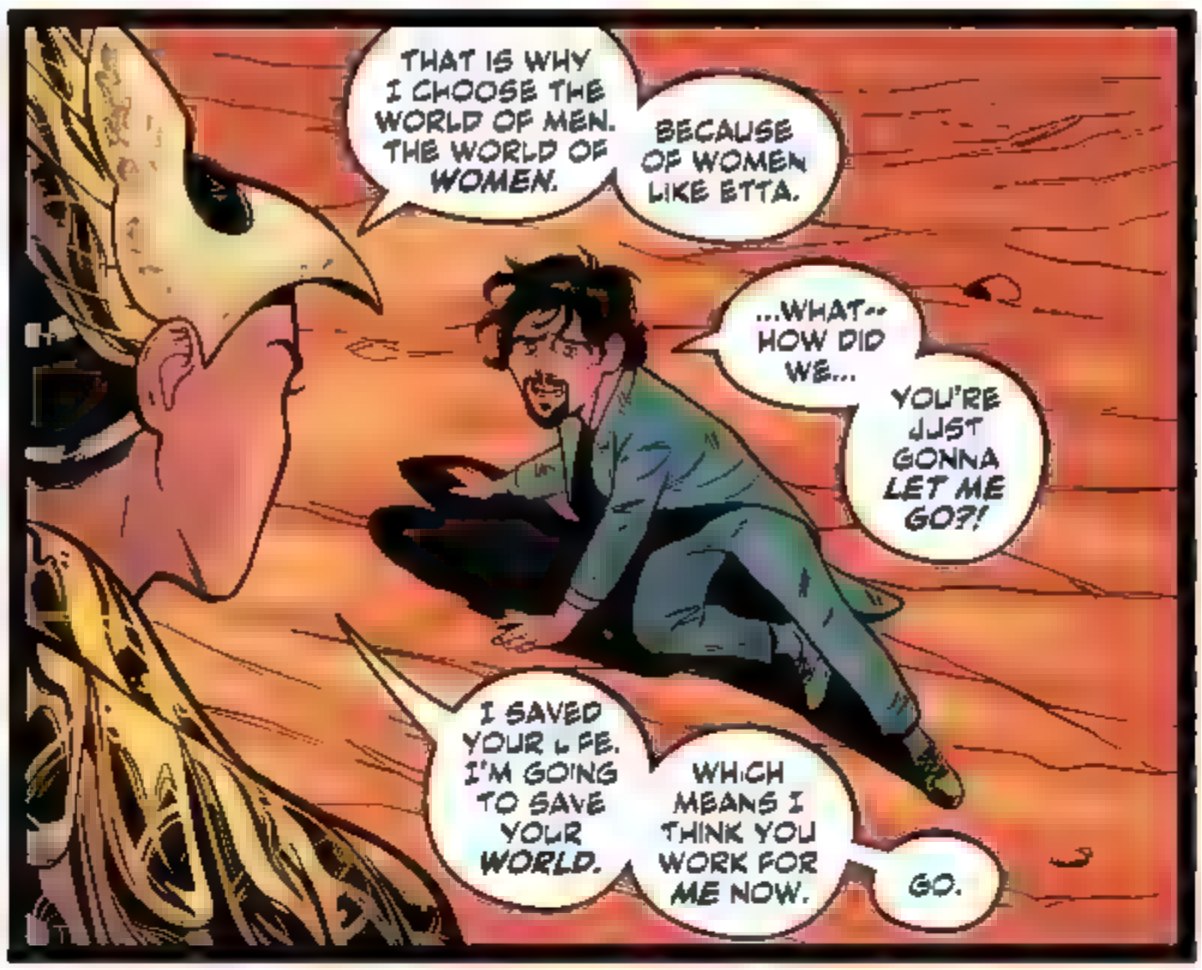
WHAP

OOOOF!

WHUD

JUST ANOTHER VISION, THEN? JUST MORE OF YOUR FOOLISH *HEAD GAMES?* LIKE I THOUGHT.




THAT IS WHY I CHOOSE THE WORLD OF MEN. THE WORLD OF WOMEN.
BECAUSE OF WOMEN LIKE ETTA.
...WHAT-- HOW DID WE...
YOU'RE JUST GONNA LET ME GO?!
I SAVED YOUR L FE. I'M GOING TO SAVE YOUR WORLD.
WHICH MEANS I THINK YOU WORK FOR ME NOW.
GO.

DARK CRISIS WORLDS WITHOUT A JUSTICE LEAGUE
WONDER WOMAN

TINI HOWARD: SCRIPT
LEILA DEL DUCA: ART
JORDIE BELLAIRE: COLORS
TROY PETERI: LETTERS
DEL DUCA & BELLAIRE: COVER
AL BARRIONUEVO & ANNETTE KWOK: VARIANT COVER
CHRIS ROSA: ASSOCIATE EDITOR
PAUL KAMINSKI: GROUP EDITOR

WONDER WOMAN CREATED BY WILLIAM MOULTON MARSTON

END.

WHAT DOES PARADISE SMELL LIKE?

TORN LIMB FROM LIMB HIS **OWN BLOOD** USED TO WRITE THE MESSAGE ON THE WALL

YOU EVER SEEN ANYTHING AS STRANGE AS THIS, DETECTIVE J'ONZZ?

DETECTIVE BRUTON I FIRST ARRIVED ON EARTH A LONG TIME AGO

BEFORE **SUPERHUMAN ATTACKS** AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS FORCED YOU TO EVOLVE AND SPLICE DNA FROM THE MORE **SENSIBLY DESIGNED** CREATURES OF THIS PLANET INTO YOUR OWN TO SURVIVE

BUT NO MATTER WHAT BLOODY, HORRIBLE THINGS TERRANS DO TO EACH OTHER, NOTHING WILL EVER BE AS STRANGE TO ME

...AS THE RIDICULOUS WAY HUMANITY USED TO WALK AROUND THIS PLANET LOOKING
I MEAN, SERIOUSLY A SINGLE CENTRALIZED BRAIN. NO ADAPTIVE CAMOUFLAGE NO ABILITY TO REGROW LOST LIMBS.
AND YOU STILL THOUGHT YOU WERE THE DOMINANT LIFE-FORM ON EARTH

MARTIAN MANHUNTER

The Martian Squidhunter

Written by Dan Watters
Art by Brandon Peterson
Colors by Michael Atiyeh
Letters by Troy Peteri

EVEN THOUGH SQUID AND OCTOPUSES WERE LIVING ALONGSIDE YOU, DOING ALL THOSE THINGS BETTER.
YEAH OKAY YOU USED TO BE THE WEIRD ONE, THEN WE ALL GOT AS WEIRD AS YOU
NOT THAT YOU LIKE TO RUB IT IN OR ANYTHING

SOMETHING **ELSE** WEIRD. GETTING A MIND-SYNC FROM ONE OF THE TECHS.

THEY SAY THEY'VE NEVER SEEN A CRIME SCENE THIS **CLEAN.**

OUR PERP DIDN'T LEAVE US A HAIR. NOT A FOOTPRINT

NOTHING EXCEPT THE MESSAGE

RIGHT

"WHAT DOES PARADISE LOOK LIKE ON EARTH?"

WHAT DO **YOU** RECKON, PARTNER?

CALL ME OLD-FASHIONED, BUT TO **ME** PARADISE WOULD LOOK LIKE A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE **DIDN'T** TEAR EACH OTHER TO PIECES AND WRITE MESSAGES IN BLOOD.

HMM WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED ON EARTH, NONE OF YOU HAD EVEN DEVELOPED ANY BASIC TELEPATHY.

YEAH OF COURSE I GUESS THAT MUST HAVE BEEN LONELY VERY QUIET

IT WAS. SO MUCH SO THAT I USED TO CAST MY MIND OUT INTO THE UNIVERSE.

ATTEMPTING TO MAKE CONTACT TO EXPERIENCE THE LIVES OF OTHER LIFE-FORMS

AND I **DID.**

THE ONLY CONSTANT IN WHAT I FOUND?

PAIN.

SUFFERING.

PARADISE IN THE REAL WORLD CANNOT BE ABSENT OF THOSE THINGS. THEY ARE A PRINCIPAL ELEMENT OF LIFE

WE CAN ONLY STRIVE TO **REDUCE** THESE ELEMENTS AS FAR AS WE CAN

HAVE THE TECHS RUN THE SCENE AGAIN

YOU'RE OFF?

IT'S SAMMY'S AND MY ANNIVERSARY TONIGHT

WELL, GIVE HER A BIG KISS FROM ME

WATCH IT, BRUTON.

PLEASURE AS EVER, J'ONN

POKER THURSDAY?

YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T MISS IT

THE KIDS ARE IN BED.

THE SNOW CRAB WAS **PERFECT**, THE OREO CHEESECAKE, **DIVINE**.

YOU'VE BEEN ATTENTIVE AND PRESENT ALL NIGHT

BUT THERE'S THIS DEEP, DARK CORNER OF YOUR MINDSCAPE THAT YOU'RE SHIELDING FROM ME

WHAT'S **BOTHERING** YOU, J'ONN?

YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN I KNOW MYSELF SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW THAT, SAMMY?

OF COURSE

IT'S THIS CRIME SCENE THIS MESSAGE THE KILLER WROTE

I KNOW IT SOUNDS RIDICULOUS, BUT IT SEEMS OVERLY... PERSONAL, SOMEHOW.

LIKE IT'S DIRECTED AT **ME**.

"WHAT DOES PARADISE LOOK LIKE ON EARTH?"

I KNOW I'M BEING PARANOID, BUT

MAYBE YOU JUST FEEL THAT WAY BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT **FROM** EARTH, J'ONN

I MEAN... WHAT **WOULD** PARADISE LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?

YOU HAD A FAMILY BEFORE US. BACK ON MARS. YOU HAD A **WHOLE PLANET.** A PLACE WHERE YOU BELONGED.

IT'S OKAY OUR MINDS [redacted] SYNCED. SO YOU KNOW I'M TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN I SAY IT WON'T UPSET ME

BUT YOUR PARADISE WOULD BE BEING BACK THERE, WOULDN'T IT? WITH THEM.

I KNOW IT WOULDN'T UPSET YOU. WHICH IS WHY I CAN STILL TELL YOU WITH ALL MY HEARTS.

NO. THAT IS **NOT** WHAT PARADISE WOULD LOOK LIKE TO ME

PERHAPS ONCE UPON A TIME, WHEN HUMANS WERE SO DIFFERENT FROM MARTIANS, THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE CASE.

BUT NOW YOU HAVE ALL COME SO FAR WE HAVE **ALL** GROWN AND CHANGED TOGETHER

AND THE TRUTH IS. I MOURNED MY PLANET I MOURNED THAT FAMILY AND OVER TIME--SO MUCH TIME--I **HEALED.** AND LEARNED TO LOVE **AGAIN.**

THE MARTIAN THAT **WAS** IS GONE. AND NOW I AM **THIS** MAN.

THIS IS WHERE I BELONG

J'ONN! J'ONN, ARE YOU THERE?

BRUTON?

J'ONN, PARTNER, HAVE YOU MISSED A WHOLE EVENING OF **CHAOS.**

HE STRUCK AGAIN, AND WE **CAUGHT** HIM AT IT, J'ONN! ALMOST LIKE HE **WANTED** TO BE FOUND.

WE'VE GOT HIM CORNERED ,BUT HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU HE SAYS HE'LL **ONLY** TALK TO YOU

SEND ME THE LOCATION, BRUTON

SAMMY

YOU'VE GOT A JOB TO DO

" GO GET 'EM, MY MANHUNTER."

IT'S PSYCH-SHIELDED

NO MIND-SYNCS ARE GETTING THROUGH

HE WANTS **YOU** TO GO ALONE J'ONN, WE NEED A PLAN BEFORE YOU--

YOU HAVEN'T STORMED THE PLACE MEANING HE HAS A **HOSTAGE**, DOESN'T HE?

YEAH

K-KLIK

YOU KNOW, IT'S FUNNY

I ARRIVED ON EARTH IN THE **FIFTIES**...

THERE WAS NO ONE HERE WHO COULD IDENTIFY WITH ME AT ALL, BACK THEN

I ENDED UP WATCHING A LOT OF MOVIES TO TRY AND LEARN ABOUT THE OLD HUMAN CULTURE

MY FAVORITES WERE ALWAYS THE CRIME FILMS. BACK IN THOSE DAYS, THEY LOOKED A **LOT** LIKE THIS FEELS

THIS ISN'T A FILM.

THIS ISN'T EVEN AS **REAL** AS A FILM.

LET HIM GO

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF I DO OR NOT, MARTIAN MANHUNTER.

NONE OF THIS IS REAL. NONE OF THESE LIVES MATTER ONE BIT

IT IS ALL A **FALSE PARADISE.**

P-PLEASE

ALL OF **THIS** WAS JUST TO GET YOUR ATTENTION

I AM THE **DEEP, DARK CORNER.** HERE TO TELL YOU WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

TO OFFER YOU AN ESCAPE ROUTE

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS--

BLAM

YOU'RE OKAY. THERE ARE MEDICS RIGHT OUTSIDE THAT DOOR FOR YOU

TH-THANK YOU.

HEY, YOU STILL BREATHING?

HKKKK

JUST ABOUT? GOOD.

BEFORE YOU SHUFFLE OFF THIS MORTAL COIL, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT PARADISE REAL QUICK.

ME, WHO SAW HIS PLANET BURN. WHO WAS ABANDONED IN THE UNIVERSE AND FOUND HIMSELF A PLACE AGAIN

THE CLOSEST TO PARADISE THAT EXISTS?

THE CLOSEST TO PARADISE THAT **MATTERS?**

IS A WORLD THAT GETS JUST A LITTLE BETTER. EVEN BY INCREMENTS AND FALSE STARTS. EVERY DAY

AND I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOUR SECRETS. ABOUT ANY REASON YOU HAVE FOR TREATING **INNOCENT PEOPLE** AS INFERIOR TO YOURSELF

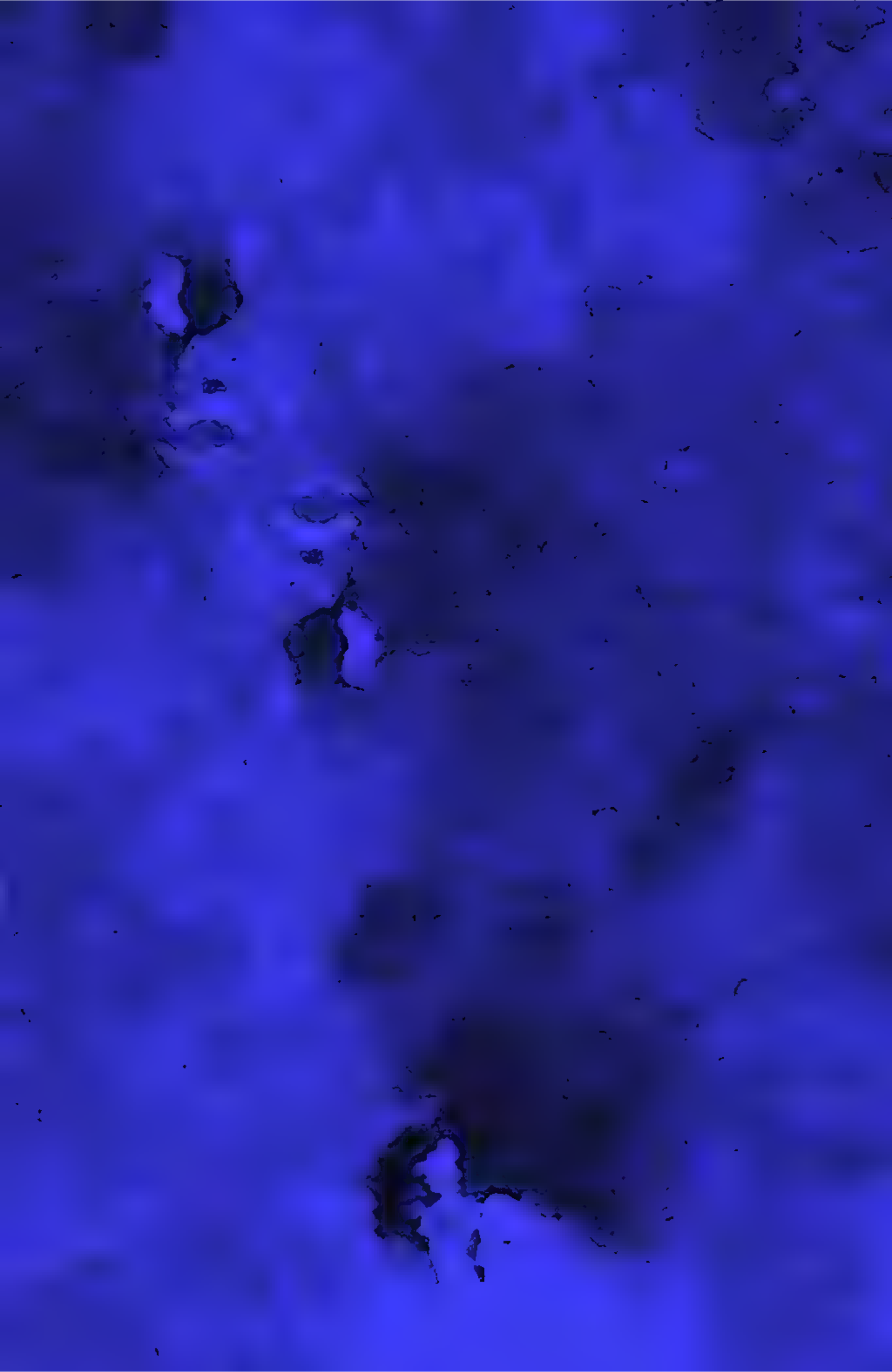
TODAY THIS WORLD IS SLIGHTLY BETTER WITHOUT A KILLER LIKE YOU

WELCOME TO PARADISE, SCUMBAG

End

Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League – Green Arrow #1
cover by CLAYTON HENRY
and MARCELO MAIOLO

·2022·



"THIS IS A LOVE STORY."

THIS... THIS IS *ALL* THE MONEY WE HAVE...

"I SEE, DEAR READER, THAT YOU MIGHT ALREADY BE QUESTIONING THE *VERACITY* OF YOUR HUMBLE NARRATOR."

...WE HAVE *NOTHING* LEFT.

"AFTER ALL, HERE IS A CERTAIN FELLOW WITH A *SOUR* TEMPER AND A *GRIM* LOOK..."

THE KING WILL KEEP YOUR FAMILY IN HIS *PRAYERS.*

"...THE *WORSHIPFUL* SHERIFF HIMSELF, *MALCOLM MERLYN.* YOU KNOW HIS TYPE."

TAKE EVERYTHING HERE THAT BELONGS TO THE *KING!*

"AND THEN, OF COURSE, ENTERS OUR *HERO...*"

SHLUK

THAT PURSE DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU...

"...KING OF BANDITS, SOVEREIGN OF THE FOREST, FRIEND TO THE POOR AND TO ANIMALS BOTH WILD AND DOMESTIC.

"HE IS CALLED MANY NAMES, SOME I WOULD NOT CARE TO REPEAT IN GENTLE COMPANY, BUT HE IS MOST COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE *GREEN ARROW.*"

"HANDSOME, IS HE NOT?"

...IT DOESN'T EVEN MATCH YOUR SHOES.

QUEEN...

"ACCOMPANIED, OF COURSE, BY HIS BAND OF MERRY MEN, ALL ARCHERS OF RENOWN AND WORTHY OF THEIR OWN BALLADS."

DARK CRISIS
WORLDS WITHOUT A JUSTICE LEAGUE
GREEN ARROW

STEPHANIE PHILLIPS: SCRIPT
CLAYTON HENRY: ART
MARCELO MAIOLO: COLOR
TROY PETERI: LETTERS
HENRY & MAIOLO: COVER
MEGAN HUANG & NIK VIRELLA: VARIANT COVERS
CHRIS ROSA: ASSOCIATE EDITOR
PAUL KAMINSKI: EDITOR

KILL THEM.

"UNDERSTANDABLY, THE *PERFIDIOUS* MERLYN IS LESS THAN PLEASED TO SEE ADVERSARIES WHO HAVE BESTED AND EMBARRASSED HIM TIME AND AGAIN.

"THERE IS HARPER, HE OF THE TROUBLED PAST, CARRYING HIS SCARS ON THE INSIDE AND OUT.

"MIA, WITH HER GIFTS OF EXUBERANCE AND UNERRING AIM."

"AND CONNOR, SAID BY SOME TO BE OUR HERO'S SON, BLESSED WITH ALL THE SKILLS OF HIS SIRE.

ARROW TO THE KNEE. WORKS EVERY TIME.

YAAGH!

KRAAK

THHNK

"ALL IN SERVICE TO THE *QUEEN*, A MOST *BENEVOLENT* MONARCH."

YOU REALLY DO NEED A BETTER GRADE OF HENCHMEN, MERLYN.

NOT THAT YOU'LL NEED THEM WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

SHRAK!

WHUMP

I'VE HAD MY *FILL* OF THAT DAMN SMIRK ON YOUR FACE, QUEEN...

SHLK

...TIME TO REMOVE IT!

YOU CAN RUN INTO THE WOODS IF YOU LIKE, MERLYN...

..BUT THAT'S MY KINGDOM.

"THUSLY DOES OUR HERO SET OFF IN PURSUIT OF HIS NEMESIS...

...EVER ADVERSARIES, ACROSS WORLDS, EVEN ACROSS UNIVERSES.

DOES THE HERO ALWAYS REMAIN THE HERO? OR ARE THERE A MYRIAD EVENTUALITIES ACROSS REALITIES, SINCE LIGHT ALWAYS MUST CAST A SHADOW?"

ANTED!

PERHAPS TRUE LOVE IS THE ONLY CONSTANT...

"...AND I *DID* PROMISE A LOVE STORY, DID I NOT?"

WHERE CAN YOU RUN, MERLYN? WHERE IN THE EXPANSE OF THE FOREST...OF *MY* FOREST...COULD YOU POSSIBLY HIDE FROM ME?

YOU'VE ENTERED *MY WORLD* NOW.

STAND AND *FACE* ME, YOU COWARD!

HM...?

HELLO THERE. AREN'T YOU A PRETTY BIRD.

WAIT!

HOW DID I GET...

...HERE?

WHEREVER HERE IS.

WHAT MAGIC IS THIS? IT'S... UNREAL.

HRM.

HFF!

WHAM

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE...

BUT I DEFINITELY WANT TO FIND OUT.

OWFF!

I DON'T LIKE STRANGERS IN MY CITY...

WHAK

OOF!

OKAY. WE CAN DO THAT.

WHUMP

IS THIS GOOD FOR YOU?

BECAUSE IT'S *VERY* GOOD FOR ME.

WHO ARE YOU?

SEEMS LIKE THE KIND OF QUESTION YOU ASK *BEFORE* TRYING TO PUT A BOOT THROUGH A GUY'S RIB CAGE.

IT JUST... IT FEELS LIKE I *KNOW* YOU...

I FEEL IT, TOO.

BUT THAT *ISN'T* POSSIBLE.

FIRST A GIANT FOREST APPEARS AT THE EDGE OF MY CITY...AND *NOW YOU'RE* HERE...

I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN YOU. ONE MINUTE, FOREST...

...NEXT MINUTE... *THIS DEPRESSING PLACE.*

WELL, *FOREST BOY*...MAYBE YOU SHOULD SEE *MORE* OF *THIS DEPRESSING PLACE* BEFORE JUDGING IT.

COME. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

I'D SAY LEAD THE WAY...

QUEEN HAS DISCOVERED HIS QUEEN. OR PERHAPS BEEN *REUNITED* WITH HER.

AND SO THEY GO, ARM IN ARM.

BUT ALL IS NOT WELL IN THEIR KINGDOM...

...AS A *NEW* PLAYER EMERGES.

AND HIS *MISSION* BEGINS.

YOU LIVE IN A FOREST WITH A GROUP OF *LEATHER-CLAD* ARCHERS...

...AND FIGHT AN EVIL KING AND HIS SHERIFF WHO ARE TAXING THE VILLAGERS INTO POVERTY...?

...AND YOUR NAME IS *QUEEN*...?

WHEN YOU SAY IT THAT WAY, IT SOUNDS A *LITTLE* ON THE NOSE, *M'LADY.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT *YOU*? WHAT'S YOUR STORY...?

DINAH. I'M DINAH LANCE. THOUGH MOST PEOPLE IN THIS CITY KNOW ME AS *BLACK CANARY.*

THIS IS THE CANARY CLUB.

FANCIER THAN I'M USED TO.. BUT I *THINK* I COULD GET USED TO IT.

AND YOU'RE SURE WE'VE NEVER MET?

I'M QUITE SURE I WOULD REMEMBER YOU. BUT YOU DO SEEM... FAMILIAR.

OH, I CAN BE VERY FAMILIAR.

IS THAT SO, OLIVER QUEEN--?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

NO, SOMEBODY JUST BLEW UP MY BAR.

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

KILL THE QUEEN.

FRIEND OF YOURS?

I'D SAY MORE THAN A FRIEND...

...I THINK THAT'S ME.

MOVE!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE LEFT THE ISLAND...

SHNK

...YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE.

THE ISLAND? YOU .YOU NEVER LEFT, DID YOU?

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? WHAT ISLAND?

TELLING YOU ABOUT THE TIME I SPENT SHIPWRECKED ON A DESERTED ISLAND RIGHT BEFORE SOME ALTERNATE VERSION OF JUNGLE ME KILLS US SEEMS LIKE BAD TIMING.

IF YOU NEED TIME...

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE ISLAND IF YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE SONIC SCREAM THING.

AFTER WE DEAL WITH THIS APPARENT *REGICIDE.*

REGICIDE. I LIKE IT. WE SHOULD CALL HIM THAT... *REGI* FOR SHORT.

IT WASN'T MEANT AS A *NICKNAME.*

WELL, IF WE CALL HIM *OLIVER,* MY DEAR, THINGS MIGHT GET A LITTLE *CONFUSING--*

ARGH!

YOU ARE *WEAK.*

WHY WOULD YOU...*UNGH...* WANT TO KILL *ME?*

THE OUTSIDE WORLD HAS *CORRUPTED* YOU. THIS IS NOT WHO WE WERE MEANT TO BE...

...*SHE* IS NOT WHO WE WERE MEANT TO BE *WITH.*

SHE HAS A NAME..

...AND A STEEL-TOED BOOT.

KRAK

...HRN...

THAM

THAT SCREAM OF YOURS WON'T MATTER WITH SEVERED VOCAL CORDS...

YOU'RE MAKING ME LOOK LIKE A REAL @☆F#☆ IN FRONT OF A PRETTY LADY, REGI.

WHUMP

SHLK

YOU ARE NOT MEANT TO *BE* HERE!

THESE WORLDS WERE NOT MEANT TO *MEET!*

OLIVER...

...DUCK.

BWOOM

YOU'RE HURT.

AND YOU FOUND THE EXPLOSIVE ARROWS.

DO YOU SEE HIM?

YOU'RE NOT THINKING HE *SURVIVED* THAT BLAST...?

IN MY EXPERIENCE, NO *BODY* DEFINITELY LEADS TO... *COMPLICATIONS.*

WHAT DID HE MEAN... ABOUT YOU NOT BELONGING HERE? ABOUT OUR *WORLDS* NOT BELONGING TOGETHER?

DOESN'T MATTER. HE'S WRONG...

...BECAUSE THERE'S NOT A WORLD WHERE WE *DON'T* BELONG TOGETHER, PRETTY BIRD.

"SOME DON'T BELIEVE IN SOULS. OR SOULMATES..."

"...BUT I DO.

"THEY ALWAYS FIND A WAY. THROUGH MYRIAD REALITIES, IN SPITE OF VILLAINS AND EVEN WHOLE WORLDS CONSPIRING TO KEEP THEM APART...

...IF THEY ARE *MEANT* TO BE TOGETHER, THEY FIND ONE ANOTHER.

SOMETIMES THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES. THERE IS ALWAYS HEARTACHE IN ADDITION TO JOY.

BUT UNIVERSES SPIN EVER ONWARD. SOULMATES FIND A WAY...

...I SHOULD KNOW.

THE BATTLE OF THE DARK ARMY.

WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME?!

THE DEATH OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

I'LL... ALWAYS FOLLOW YOU...

PRETTY BIR

BEHOLD! TWO NEW UNIVERSES AND...

"...TWO DOOMED WORLDS!"

EARTH-BLACK CANARY.1.

EARTH-GREEN ARROW.1.

DARK CRISIS

WORLDS WITHOUT A JUSTICE LEAGUE

'till death do us part!

GREEN ARROW AND BLACK CANARY

WRITTEN BY DENNIS CULVER DRAWN BY NIK VIRELLA
COLORED BY ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
LETTERED BY TROY PETERI
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: CHRIS ROSA – EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI

FINALLY HERE? MUST BE NICE TO ROLL INTO THE OFFICE AT NOON, BOSS. ANOTHER LATE NIGHT IN THE *ARROW ARMOR*?

NOT JUST THAT, *DIGGLE*. THE *DREAMS* ARE GETTING MORE *INTENSE*.

THIS AGAIN, OLLIE? FOR SOMEONE WHO COULD HAVE ANYONE HE WANTS, ONLY *YOU* WOULD WANT A WOMAN WHO DOESN'T EXIST.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...I'VE BUILT A MACHINE THAT CAN RE-CREATE THE IMAGE OF HER FROM MY DREAMS.

AND I'VE USED MY TECHNOLOGY TO SCAN THE FACES OF EVERYONE ON EARTH WITH NO MATCHES.

BUT *DESPITE* THAT, I *STILL* KNOW SHE EXISTS *SOMEWHERE* OUT THERE.

JUST NOT IN *THIS* UNIVERSE

OFFICER LANCE, YOU ARE ONCE AGAIN LATE TO YOUR SHIFT. BIRDS OF P.R.E.Y. PROTOCOL DICTATES THAT--

I *KNOW* THE PROTOCOLS, *ORACLE*.

I HELPED WRITE THEM WITH *COMMISSIONER GORDON* BEFORE SHE PROGRAMMED YOU.

I'VE JUST BEEN HAVING THE SAME *NIGHTMARES* AGAIN.

WHERE I LOSE *EVERYTHING* I HOLD DEAR AND I'M POWERLESS AGAINST SOME...

...UNSTOPPABLE DOOMSDAY.

ARROW

NOT A ROCKET, DIGG, IT'S A *SHIFTSHIP.*

PUT SIMPLY THIS WILL TRANSPORT ME FROM ONE UNIVERSE TO THE NEXT BY NAVIGATING THE SPACE BETWEEN. SOMETHING I CALL *THE BLEED.*

OKAYYY, BUT WHY IS IT SHAPED LIKE AN ARROW?

BECAUSE GOOD BRANDING IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT.

WHAT ABOUT THE BRAND YOU'VE BUILT IN *THIS* UNIVERSE FIGHTING CRIME AS GREEN ARROW?

I CAN'T, DIGG. NOT UNTIL I FOLLOW *MY HEART.*

AND FIND THE WOMAN OF MY DREAMS.

BIRDS OF P.R.E.Y.! PUT YOUR HANDS UP AND NOBODY--

--BARBARA?!

I'M AFRAID I'M NOT HERE AS YOUR FRIEND, BUT AS COMM.SSIONER GORDON.

AM I UNDER ARREST, THEN? ON WHAT CHARGES?

ALL SYSTEMS READY. INITIATING COUNT-DOWN.

IT'S YOUR NIGHTMARES, *DINAH.*

ORACLE CALCULATES THAT THE LONGER YOU'RE FREE, THE MORE LIKELY THAT THIS ***DOOMSDAY*** YOU KEEP DREAMING ABOUT WILL COME TO PASS AND ***END OUR WORLD.***

SO YOU'RE ARRESTING ME FOR WHAT ***MIGHT*** HAPPEN?

YOU ***PROMISED*** ME THAT IT WOULD NEVER COME TO THIS WHEN YOU BUILT THAT ***A.I.***

THINGS CHANGE. AND THIS IS ***TOO IMPORTANT*** TO IGNORE.

HARD WAY OR EASY WAY? CHOICE IS YOURS.

YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

3...

2...

1...

LIFTOFF!

BANG BANG BANG

OLLIE! YOU HAVE TO ABORT! WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING IS TEARING EVERYTHING--OUR WHOLE WORLD APART!

DAMN IT, DINAH! IT'S ALREADY HAPPENING. LOOK AT THE SKY!

WON'T... GIVE... UP!

RED SKY...?! AND A...

...GREEN ARROW?

NO.

YOU *CAN'T* BE HERE, OLLIE.

I'LL ALWAYS FOLLOW YOU, PRETTY BIRD...

...YOU'RE MY *BULLS-EYE.*

NOOOOOO!

"AND YET *AGAIN...*"

...YOUR WORLDS BOTH FALL.

AGAIN AND AGAIN THROUGH COUNTLESS WORLDS, THE END IS ALWAYS THE SAME.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT YOU TWO THAT KEEPS THESE REALITIES FROM TAKING HOLD?

PERHAPS I SHOULD LET GO OF THIS ONE'S *LIFE?*

AND ALLOW THE *DESTRUCTION* WROUGHT BY *DOOMSDAY* TO FINALLY RUN ITS COURSE?

No!

IF YOU MUST INSIST ON THE *INSANITY* OF THESE WORLDS, THEN THERE'S STILL *ANOTHER WAY!*

OLLIE WILL *ALWAYS* FOLLOW ME, NO MATTER WHERE I GO. THAT MUCH IS CLEAR. AND I WILL *NEVER* REST AS LONG AS I KNOW OLLIE MIGHT DIE.

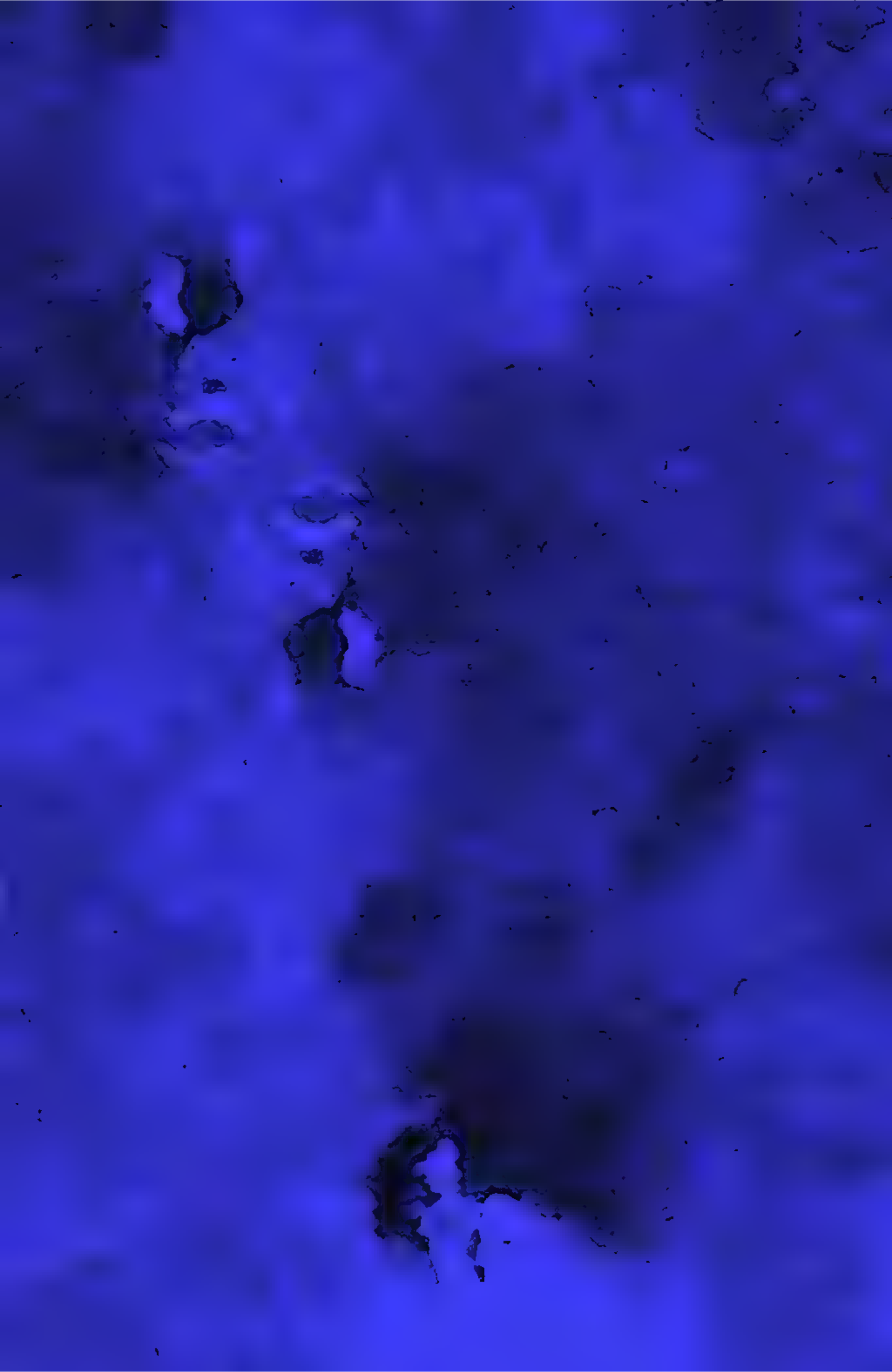
SO BUILD A WORLD FOR US *TOGETHER.* ONE WHERE WE CAN *FORGET* ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE TO US.

AH YES. I SEE NOW WHERE I WENT WRONG. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THEIR *COMRADES,* WHILE YOU TWO FOUGHT TOGETHER AS *MUCH MORE.*

A *SPECIAL BOND* THAT REQUIRES A *SPECIAL PRISON...*

"...A CAGE MADE OF TRUE LOVE."

Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League – Batman #1 cover by RYAN SOOK



THERE IS A WORLD THAT TURNS IN CHAOS.

DARK CRISIS
WORLDS WITHOUT A JUSTICE LEAGUE

BATMAN

WORDS: SIMON SPURRIER
ART & COLORS: RYAN SOOK
LETTERS: TROY PETERI
COVER: RYAN SOOK
VARIANT COVERS: RYAN SOOK, ARIEL COLON
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: CHRIS ROSA
EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI

BATMAN created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger

BENEATH ITS SHATTERED SKIES, THE DETRITUS OF A *PSYCHIC ESCHATON:* ABANDONED BY LAWS OF NATURE AND CONSEQUENCE.

A *FEVERED REALM,* BLOTTED WITH THE ASTRAL ASHES OF *POPULATION PSYCHOSIS.*

AND YET THERE IS A *SANCTUARY.*

BY DAY THE *GREAT MACHINE* IS A MARVEL.

BY DAY ITS BRANES AND VANES BEND FORM AND PHYSICS, SPINNING ORDER FROM CHAOS BY DAY ITS DISTRICTS REVOLVE IN *ORRERIES* OF PACE AND POWER.

GOTHAM. THE *ESCAPEMENT.* THE TUMBLERS AND TINES OF A SACRED SYSTEM. A METRONOMIC MEGALOPOLIS.

THE LAST CITY ON EARTH.

MR. WAK? I'M AFRAID THERE WAS ANOTHER *INCIDENT* DURING *DOWNTIME*, SIR.

IN GOTHAM, BY DAY, EVERYTHING RUNS ON TIME. IN GOTHAM THE PEOPLE LIVE AND LOVE WITH PEACE, WITH PLEASURE. AND--ABOVE ALL? WITH *PRECISION*.

SUCH VIRTUES ARE COUNTED BY ALL AS *THE GIFTS* OF ITS MAKER, ITS MAINTAINER--

--THE *ARCHITEK*.

"INCIDENT"...?

AW NUTS. YOU MEAN *THE NIGHT*, DON'T YOU?

I'M AFRAID SO, SIR

THE SENSORY NETWORK STITCHED TOGETHER A REVIEW ENGRAM, IF YOU WANTED TO SEE?

=SIGH= I SUPPOSE I'D BETTER...

BUT, AFTER DARK...?

AFTER DARK THE GREAT ELECTR.C WALLWHEELS WH.SPER TO A HALT. AND THE GEARSCRAPERS LOSE PRECISION

THE ARMATURE-AVENUES CEASE THEIR SWAY.NG LIKE THE HIPS OF WEARY MOTHERS. THEIR RESTIVE DARLINGS SURRENDERING, AT LAST TO S.EEP

UNMOVED BY THE SUN'S EMANATION, THE CITY *SEEMS* TO FALL STILL--

--YET THERE *IS* MOVEMENT ALWAYS

EVEN THE VIBRATIONS OF ***UNCALIBRATED PARTS*** MAN, IN A CERTAIN LIGHT, CONTRIBUTE TO PERFECTION.

AFTER DARK, VIRTUOUS CITIZENS KEEP TO THEIR HOMES OR RESTRICT THEIR LEISURES TO ***WELL-LIT MECHANISMS*** AND ***RESPECTABLE FULCRA.***

AFTER DARK, THE ***DELIRIUM*** OF THE ***MADLANDS*** NVADES THE LOWEST STRATA.

AND IF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE GOTHAM ESCAPEMENT ARE CAPABLE OF *REST*, DESPITE THE CACKLING HORRORS OUTSIDE--

--THEN IT IS SURELY IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT, HOWEVER FEARFUL THE FORCES THAT PREY UPON THE MACHINE--

--THERE ARE ***GREATER*** TERRORS THAT PREY UPON ***THEM.***

HERE HE COMES ..

WE GOT ***AUDIO*** FOR THIS?

SORRY, BOSS. WE THINK SOMEONE ***HACKED*** THE ***LOGIC CORE. VISUALS*** ONLY. GUESS WE JUST HAVE TO ***IMAGINE*** WHAT THEY'RE SCREAMING, HUH?

KOM

RRAAA

SWIP

IT'S HIM! R-RUN! IT'S THE FREAKIN' NIGHT!

thk thk thk

SKIF

PHEROMONE SIGNATURE. AEROSOL BIOMETRICS. FUTILE TO HIDE.

COME. FACE THE DARK.

HYAAAA--!

BRAKKA BRAKK BRAKK

WH... WH--

HA!

SNAP

A-AUTOMATON. Y-YOU'RE NOT EVEN A REAL MAN. YOU'RE-- YOU'RE--

OSWALD COBBLEPOT.

YOU YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

L-LISTEN-- MY MEMORIES, THEY'RE--THEY'RE A *MESS*, B-BUT-- I WAS *HIRED* TO MOVE THIS TECH! I-IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH M--

HUNTED YOU.

MANY YEARS.

MARTHA WAYNE. THOMAS WAYNE.

WH-WH-WH-- :HKKK:

MOVIE THEATER. ALLEY OUT BACK. *GUNSHOT*. CRYING BOY...

DECADES INVESTIGATING. FALSE LEADS. CONNECTIONS. FINALLY OBTAINED DNA MATCH. *PROOF*.

YOU KILLED MY PARENTS.

YOUR P...?

OH. :HHKH: *OH*, THIS IS BEAUTIFUL. IT ALL MAKES *SENSE*. WH-WHAT THE *OLD MAN* SAID CHANG.NG THE EVIDENCE... :KKGH:...HACKING THE MACHINE...*HA!*

I DIDN'T DO *SQUAT* TO YOU, HALF-A-MAN! YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU *ARE!*

YOU D-- HA...

YOU DON'T-- HAHAHA--YOU DON'T--

SNIVERTOUCH...

FIGHT IT. STAY CALM. BREATHE SLOW. YOU HAVE TO F--

eeeeeaaa

DAMN. WISH WE KNEW WHAT THESE FREAKS *SAID* TO EACH OTHER

BODY GOT DUMPED AT THE MORGUE BY THE *REDBREASTS* THIS MORNING, SIR.

UFF. WHAT EVEN *ARE* THOSE THINGS .? THEY CREEP ME OUT

AND THERE'S THE PROBLEM. THIS CONSTANT *GRIMDARK* CRAP.

LOOK. I GET IT: HE'S STRIKING *TERROR* INTO THE HEARTS OF CR.MINALS. YADA YADA.

BUT-- CAN'T HE LEAVE JUST *ONE* ALIVE? LET A *MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL* TRY TO HELP?

THE PEOPLE DON'T SEEM TO MIND, SIR. *THE NIGHT* HAS VERY HIGH APPROVAL RATINGS

IT'S NOT *ABOUT* POPULARITY, JAY. REMEMBER THE *SNEER-DENIERS*, AT THE START? DID WE WORRY ABOUT *THEIR* APPROVAL?

"A PLAGUE OF *MADNESS*, FOR GOD'S SAKE! A *PSYCHIC VIRUS* SO DESTRUCTIVE THE WEIGHT OF *SHATTERED MINDS* LITERALLY BROKE *REALITY!*

"HOW DO YOU FIGHT *THAT?*

NOT WITH *POPULARITY*, THAT'S FOR SURE.

THERE'S NOT ONE OF US WHOSE MEMORIES DIDN'T GET SCRAMBLED-- HECK, I BARELY REMEMBER HOW THIS STUFF EVEN *WORKS*-- BUT.. WE GOT IT *DONE*, RIGHT?

A MACHINE TO SECURE AN *ISLAND OF SANITY*. WE DESIGNED AND BUILT IT BEFORE ANYONE COULD *STOP US*, AND--

SIR? WITH *RESPECT?*

THERE'S NO "WE" ABOUT IT. *YOU* SAVED US, MR. WAX.

KNOCK IT OFF, JAY--YOU'LL **EMBARRASS** HIM. YOU THINK A GUY WHO WEARS A **MASK** IS COMFORTABLE WITH PRAISE?

THE MASK TESTS **VERY** HIGH, BABS. PEOPLE **LOVE** HUMILITY

I WEAR THIS DUMB THING SO AT THE END OF THE DAY I CAN GET A BEER WITHOUT FOLKS TREATING ME **DIFFERENT**. I'M NOT MY **JOB**, OKAY?

LOOK--NO FALSE **MODESTY**- THE ESCAPEMENT **WORKS**. PEOPLE ARE **HAPPY**. WE HAVE A **FUTURE** AND I'M **PROUD** OF THAT. BUT...

...I'M JUST A **BUILDER**, GUYS. I NEVER **UNDERSTOOD** THIS NEED TO--TO **BREAK** STUFF. TO **PUNISH**.

I HATE THAT WE OWE OUR **SAFETY** TO SOMEONE AS **DESTRUCTIVE** AS--

... THE NIGHT

WHUH...

IT WAKES.

N...NIGHT?

NIGHT, YOU'VE...YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR. I'VE TOLERATED YOUR EXCESSES UP TO NOW, BUT--THIS? THIS IS--

ETHERIC ENGINES. SCANNERS. PSYCHIC DETECTORS.

TOOK THEM FROM A VILLAIN. SAID...UNSETTLING THINGS. THOUGHT I'D SOLVED AN OLD CRIME. NOW...? UNSURE.

...WH-WHAT ARE Y--?

I USED THEM. ANALYZED MY OWN BRAIN. FOUND... ANOMALIES.

SCANNED THE CITY. SEEKING PATTERNS. COINCIDENCES. FOUND A MATCH.

A... A MATCH FOR WHAAAAA--

EVERYTHING. THOUGHT PATTERNS. NEURAL FREQUENCIES. PSYCHIC PROFILE.

CLICK

EVERYTHING.

...H...

H-HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

OBVIOUS.

ONE OF US IS COUNTERFEIT.

CHK

AND SO THEY COMPARE.

THE POINTS OF *COMMONALITY*. THE PAIN THAT *BINDS*. A *TRAUMA* LIKE *TREASURE*.

I'M. I'M KINDA *HAZY* ABOUT SOME OF WHAT COMES NEXT. THE *PLAGUE*--THE *COLLAPSE*-- IT SCRAMBLED *EVERYTHING*.

BUT...BUT THEN--

THE *DIVERGENCE*.

A SOUL FATED TO *BUILD*. WEALTH INTELLIGENCE. YES-- BUT MORESO? *CHARM* AND *HOPE*. ENOUGH TO *GALVANIZE* AN APATHETIC POLITY

ENOUGH TO ENGINEER A *MIRACLE*.

I ALWAYS HATED THE NAME *WAYNE*. IT'S LIKE... "TO *WANE*," Y'KNOW? TO *FADE OUT*.

HENCE "*WAX*." TO *INCREASE*. MM. JUVENILE WORDPLAY.

AND ANOTHER SOUL. DOOMED TO DARKNESS A SOUL WHOSE GRAVITY WAS ITS *PAIN*.

WHOSE BRIGHT CORONAS OF IDENTITY COLLAPSED IN THE FOAM AND FORCE OF ITS OWN HATRED WHO CHOSE TO BECOME A *MYTH*.

...YOU'RE NOT A *MAN*. YOU'RE A *BLACK HOLE*. YOU'RE AN *OBSESSION* WITH *SHOES*.

WHOEVER COPIED MY *BRAIN* TO CREATE *YOU* LEFT OUT ALL THE HUMANITY, AND--

MASTER...?

WH..WHAT ARE..

REDBREASTS.

INFORMANTS. LISTENERS. WATCHERS. MY FAMILY.

THEY'RE-- THEY'RE--

SNEERTOUCHED-- YES. A MINOR OPERATION. IT CURES THE MADNESS. LEAVES THEM PLIABLE. BLANK. USEFUL..

YOU SEE, WAX? NOT ONLY YOU WHO FIXES THINGS.

THAT'S-- THAT'S HORRI--

THE EQUIPMENT I SEIZED--IT EMITS A SIGNAL. HACKING CITY COMPUTER. CHANGING DATA. MANIPULATING DREAMS. TRIGGERED SNEERTOUCH IN THE VILLAIN WHO TRANSPORTED IT.

I SENT MY SONS TO TRACK IT.

...HM. UNEXPECTED.

WH-WHAT IS IT? WH-WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?

THE MADLANDS.

INTRIGUED. YOU NEVER WONDERED WHO KILLED OUR PARENTS?

OF COURSE I DID. BUT. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

BETTER TO IMPROVE THE WORLD FOR EVERYONE THAN FIXATE ON ONE SICK GUY WITH A GUN

SOMEBODY HAD TO DO SOMETHING TRY TO .TO FIX THE MADNESS.

INACCURATE. CAN'T SOLVE CHAOS.

CAN ONLY DESTROY IT.

ONLY A MONSTER DOES NOTHING BUT DESTROY.

HMPH. ONLY A CHILD THINKS HE CAN TURN THE WORLD INTO CLOCKWORK.

YOUR CITY'S A LIE. THIS IS WHAT'S REAL. OUT HERE. CHAOS. HORROR. ONLY A HALF-WIT WOULD THINK IT CURABLE.

THAT'S HOW I KNOW YOU'RE THE COPY.

MAYBE I AM.

BUT--I'LL TELL YOU THIS. DOING WHAT I DO? HELPING PEOPLE? IT MAKES ME HAPPY. DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT IS?

SIGNAL ENDS AHEAD.

MASK UP.

"ARK..."

W-WHY DOES THIS PLACE FEEL SO *FAMILIAR...?*

HM. OUTSKIRTS OF OLD CITY LIMITS. YOUR MIRACLE MACHINE DIDN'T REACH - THIS FAR. -

SMUCK

WATCH OUT!

APPRECIATED.

FWIP

FLOT

CHAINED UP...WAITING IN THE DIRT...WHO'D USE THE *SNEERTOUCHED* AS *GUARD DOGS?*

HMM. ONLY PERSON IT CAN BE.

MASTERMIND BEHIND ALL THIS. AUTHOR OF CHAOS. *SNEERING DEVIL* WHO KILLED MY--

--OUR--

--PARENTS. THE *FREAK* WHO *MURDERED THE WORLD* AND--

SSSS

HELLO, BOYS

I SUPPOSE YOU'D BETTER COME IN.

A-ALFRED? BUT--BUT I THOUGHT YOU--

--WENT BACK TO DEAR OLD BLIGHTY AFTER YOUR PARENTS' DEMISE?--MM. A CONVENIENT FICTION, I'M AFRAID

OH DEAR-- :SNIFF: EVERY TIME.

D-DO EXCUSE ME FOR A SENTIMENTAL OLD FOOL. I SIMPLY CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS TO SEE YOU BOTH

TEA?

WHAT'S HE MEAN, "EVERY TIME" .?

WHAT IS ALL THIS...?

ORIGINALLY? THE LAB EQUIPMENT OF ONE PROFESSOR JONATHAN CRANE.

HE WAS EXPERIMENTING ON HIS OWN PATIENTS. EXPLOITING THEIR ABERRATIONS. I IMAGINE HE THOUGHT IT WAS ALL GOING RATHER WELL--

--UNTIL THEY BROUGHT IN INMATE 3141.

"A KILLER. A NAMELESS DRIFTER. HIS UNIQUE PSYCHE OVERLOADED CRANE'S MACHINES EVEN AS THEY ATOMIZED HIS BODY

"WHAT EMERGED-- WHAT ESCAPED-- DEFIES SENSE. A... DISTILLATION OF INSANITY. A PSYCHIC VIRUS STRONG ENOUGH TO OVERTHROW AN ENTIRE WORLD

BUT NOT GOTHAM. AND NOT YOU.

"IT WAS HERE THAT YOUNG MASTER BRUCE STUDIED THE AFTERMATH OF CRANE'S CATASTROPHE. HIS RECORDS...

"THE ELECTRIC MIRACLES OF MAXIE ZEUS. THE NEURAL TRICKERY OF JERVIS TETCH. THE CRYOGENEICS OF VICTOR FRIES. I COULD GO ON.

"CRANE HAD REDUCED THEM ALL TO DATA. TO UTILITY. AS THE SNEERTOUCH RAGED OUTSIDE THE CITY, MASTER BRUCE SAW AN OPPORTUNITY. A WAY TO HARNESS THE HORROR.

TO BUILD PARADISE FROM BLACK SCIENCE AND PURGE ANY MADNESS THAT SLUNK IN.

BUT--SHHHH.. HE REALIZED HE'D NEVER ACHIEVE IT UNALTERED. THERE WAS TOO MUCH ..CONFLICT... IN HIM. HIS DRIVES. HIS GENIUS. THE SAVIOR AND THE DESTROYER.

IN A DIFFERENT WORLD THEIR POLARITY MIGHT HAVE MADE FOR A STRONGER COMPOSITE. OBSESSION TEMPERED WITH CONSCIENCE. BUT HERE?

IT HELD HIM BACK.

"AND SO HE CUT THEM APART."

SO . . . WH-WHICH OF US IS THE *FAKE?*

BOTH *NEITHER.* THE FIRST *BODY* WAS COPIED SO PERFECTLY-- THE *KARLO* TECHNIQUE WAS KEY--THAT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE. ONLY THE *PSYCHES* ARE DISTINCT

I HAVE MAINTAINED THE WORK EVER SINCE.

WHY?

WHY .. FOR *LOVE,* MASTER BRUCE. LOVE FOR YOU. BOTH SIDES OF YOU

IT HAS *ALWAYS* BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO SERVE YOUR HAPPINESS.

clik

...R-RIDICULOUS. *OBSCENE.*

THIS SHALLOW FOOL MIGHT BE HAPPY-- NOT *ME.* THE GUILT... THE *CHAOS*...IT *EATS* ME. WH-WHOEVER'S *PERFECT WORLD* THIS IS, IT'S NOT M--

YOU'RE QUITE WRONG, MASTER BRUCE. AND YOU KNOW IT.

THE ORIGINAL FREED YOU FROM HIS SCRUPLES. HE *FUELED* YOU WITH MYSTERIES. HE GAVE YOU LICENSE TO BECOME A *MONSTER.* A *RUMOR.* TO *WALLOW* IN YOUR PAIN.

BECAUSE *HE* UNDERSTOOD FOR HIS DARKER HALF ..? FOR *YOU...?*

THIS *IS* HAPPINESS

WRRR

UNFORTUNATELY... IT SIMPLY ISN'T EFFECTIVE IF YOU BOTH *KNOW* ABOUT IT. WE'VE *TRIED* IT, ONCE OR TWICE.

KCHUNG

WUH--

ZAKKT

HUH. I REALLY *AM* DREADFU...Y SORRY, MASTERS. ERASING MEMORIES UPLOADING NEW *CRIMINAL EVIDENCE*...

WWZZV

THIS--THIS WILL BE THE *53RD* TIME WE RESET. SOONER OR LATER, ONE OR BOTH OF YOU *ALWAYS* FINDS YOUR WAY HERE.

THE MACHINE *WORKS*.

AT *EVERY* LEVEL, THE MACHINE WORKS. EVEN WHEN IT *SEEMS* TO BE STILL, ITS FINEST MECHANISMS CONTINUE TO MOVE

MY POOR BOYS. T-TAKE THEM *HOME*, PLEASE.

ALWAYS ADJUSTING. FINE-TUNING. SELF-IMPROVING. SEEKING THE PERFECT *BALANCE*.

AND.. =SIGH= .WE'D BETTER THAW OUT ANOTHER *NEMESIS*.

THE *GOTHAM ESCAPEMENT* IS A *MARVEL* FOR THOSE WHO CALL IT HOME--AND YET?

BENEATH ITS COARSE QUIDDITIES ITS FUNCTION IS NEITHER TO SAVE NOR PUNISH.

MMFF...?

NOT TO *CREATE* NOR *DESTROY*.

IN THE END, THE GREAT MACHINE MERELY *EXISTS TO EXIST.*

VICTOR ZSASZ...

HUNTED YOU.

MANY YEARS.

FINALLY HAVE DNA EVIDENCE.

FOR THERE *IS* MOVEMENT. *ALWAYS.* AND EVEN THE VIBRATIONS OF *UNCALIBRATED PARTS* MAY--IN A CERTAIN LIGHT--

--CONTRIBUTE TO PERFECTION

YOU KILLED MY PARENTS.

THERE'S MAGIC IN THE WORLD.

BUT MOST PEOPLE GET IT ALL WRONG.

THEY DEFINE MAGIC AS EXTRAORDINARY POWER.

BUT POWER CAN BE OBTAINED.

CREATED.

DESTROYED.

THOIL.

THE ONLY TRUE MAGIC...

...THE UNBREAKABLE MAGIC...

...THE IMPOSSIBLE-TO-RE-CREATE

...IS TIME.

THERE IS NEVER ENOUGH TIME.

LET'S SPEED THIS UP.

I DON'T HAVE A MILLENNIUM.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

DARK CRISIS WORLDS WITHOUT A JUSTICE LEAGUE presents

THEY'RE COMING FOR ME.

ZATANNA in:!

I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.

BUT THEY'RE NOT THERE.

TIME'S UP

LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.

MEGHAN FITZMARTIN
WRITER

DAN JURGENS AND NORM RAPMUND
ART

MUCH BETTER.

FEDERICO BLEE
COLORS

TROY PETERI
LETTERS

CHRIS ROSA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

PAUL KAMINSKI
EDITOR

IF ONLY TIME WOULD SLOW DOWN.

I CAN FEEL SOMEONE TRYING TO COME THROUGH, TO STOP ME.

NOT YET.

I CAN'T GO YET. THIS IS MY ONE CHANCE.

PERHAPS HERE?

ALTO

NOW SH ING

NO, THIS ISN'T IT.

BLINK

I'VE GOT TO HURRY. THEY AREN'T HERE.

BLINK

ZATANNA!

HAVE I FOUND THEM?

I MADE IT.

YOU KNOW, YOU MAKE IT *BLOODY* HARD TO GET TO YOU.

WHAT, ARE YOU SERIOUS? ARE YOU TRYING TO *KILL ME?*

YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS UP. YOU'RE NOT *INFINITE.* YOU'RE GONNA DEPLETE YOURSELF.

THIS IS MY WORLD, ISN'T IT? I AM IN CONTROL. WHO ARE YOU TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO?

YOU KNOW WHO I AM.

ME? BUT...JOHN WAS JUST THERE.

I TOOK THE FORM OF JOHN. AS MUCH AS WE HATE TO ADMIT IT, HE IS OFTEN THE VOICE OF REASON IN OUR LIFE. I NEEDED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME.

YOU ARE NO GOD.

YOU WANTED *CONTROL*. BUT *YOU* KNOW, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, THAT WE DON'T HAVE CONTROL OVER TIME.

AND THE CLOCK IS TICKING.

ZATANNA?

THERE YOU ARE.

TICKETS

ARE YOU READY TO PERFORM, MY GIRL?

ZATARA AND ZATANNA

DAD.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES, I STILL FEEL LIKE THAT YOUNG GIRL. WHO JUST WANTS TO SPEND TIME WITH HER FATHER. WHO LOOKS AT HIM LIKE HE HANGS THE MOON, THE STARS, AND THE WHOLE WORLD.

ABOUT TIME.

I WANTED TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING WAS JUST RIGHT.

I MISSED YOU. SO MUCH.

WE'VE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD, MY GIRL.

BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE.

FWOOSH

WE'VE RUN OUT OF TIME.

LET'S GO, ZATANNA.

IT'S TIME TO RETURN HOME.

I KNEW YOU'D FIND ME. I KNEW... IT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TIME.

ZATANNA, TRUST ME...

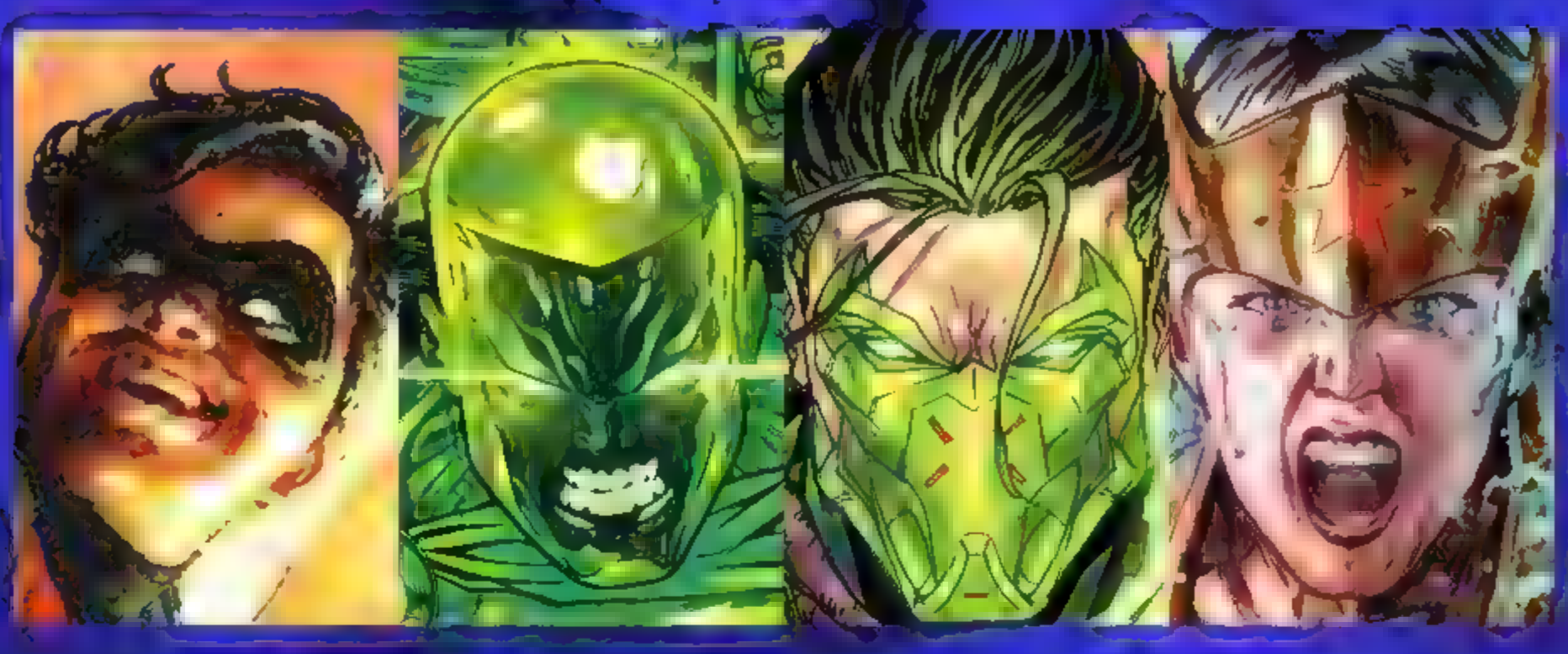
NO MATTER HOW YOU SHAPED THIS WORLD, IT WOULD NEVER BE ENOUGH TIME.

HE'S RIGHT.

THAT'S THE THING ABOUT TIME.

IT'S THE MOST POWERFUL MAGIC WE NEVER STOP FIGHTING.

LET'S GO KICK SOME UNIVERSE-DISTORTING ASS.



GALLERY SECTION

***Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League - Superman* #1** variant cover by STEVE BEACH

Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a
Justice League – Green Lantern #1
variant cover by MARIO "FOX" FOCCILLO
and P[illegible] (PRESSY)

Dark Cris Worlds Without a
- Gre
variant y TYLER
and AR NDO

Wonder Woman #1 variant cover

Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League - Green Arrow #1
variant cover by MEGAN HUANG

Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League - Green Arrow #1
variant cover by NIK VIRELLA

Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League – Batman #1
variant cover by RYAN SOOK

Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League - Batman #1
cover by ARIEL COLÓN

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAS FALLEN!

In an epic battle against the mad Pariah and his Dark Army, Earth's defenders sacrificed themselves to save the Multiverse. But Pariah has *not* let the heroes rest in peace. Instead, he has imprisoned the essence of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, Green Arrow, Black Canary, and more on custom-made worlds created from their innermost desires.

The mystery of what Pariah intends to do with these weird new worlds–as well as those birthed from the hopes of Aquaman, Martian Manhunter, Hawkgirl, and Zatanna–unfolds in Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League, a gripping new hardcover exploring Pariah's world-shaking agenda in Dark Crisis on Infinite Earths!

This thrilling volume showcases stories from a startling array of writers and artists including Tom King, Phillip Kennedy Johnson, Tini Howard, Chris Burnham, Fernando Blanco, and Leila del Duca! Collects *Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League – Superman* #1, *Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League – Green Lantern* #1, *Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League – Wonder Woman* #1, *Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League – Green Arrow* #1, and *Dark Crisis: Worlds Without a Justice League – Batman* #1, along with the issues' gorgeous variant covers.